Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you support the local government's plan to issue two-year "umbrella permits" to alien workers with legal status in the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

October 23, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Drug Sting

Authorities arrested more than 300 people in a drug sting that demonstrates a new cartel's vast reach.

NATION...Page 10

New Moon

The Volturi have invaded the red carpet.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

2 hurt in daylight robbery

Ex-convict arrested, 2 witnesses give chase

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A notorious ex-convict was arrested yesterday shortly after he and a companion allegedly staged a daylight robbery that left two persons injured at a pawnshop along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa.

Marlon Martin, 25, was arrested and brought to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment of a laceration on his right thumb. He was later detained at the Department of Corrections.

The second suspect, described as 5'8" tall and skinnier, is at large, according to the Department of Public Safety yesterday.

See ROBBERY on Page 4

Fitial

4 groups now eyeing casinos on Rota

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two other groups of investors are interested in operating casinos on Rota, a few weeks after two other separate Japanese and Korean investor groups announced plans to open casinos on the island as early as 2010.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview, said the two other investor groups are the American Pacific, a group of Chinese investors, as well as China-based Renfeng Investment.

Fitial said his administration welcomes legitimate investors to the CNMI.

Of the four investors, only one—Rota Treasure Island Corp.— has so far submitted an application with the Rota Casino and Gaming

See 4 GROUPS on Page 4

9,000 to 11,000 'umbrella permits' out next week

The Department of Labor is printing 9,000 to 11,000 transition conditional permits or "umbrella permits" to the first batch of eligible alien workers next week.

During yesterday's forum

See UMBRELLA on Page 4

Department of Labor officials face representatives of worker groups, community members and at least two lawmakers shortly before the start of a presentation on the two-year "umbrella" permit for foreign workers at the Labor office yesterday afternoon. From left, Labor director Barry Hirshbein, Labor Processing Section supervisor James Ulloa, volunteer lawyer Deanne Siemer, and Labor Employment Services director Alfred Pangelinan.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Fitial: Repair of Tinian outer seawall to exceed $50M

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial said the CNMI needs over $50 million to repair Tinian's outer seawall, but the government has yet to find the money days after he declared a state of emergency for the island on Oct. 13.

The emergency declaration is in effect for 30 days.

The governor said the administration is seeking resources for the project, but no capital improvement funds have been transferred to it.

"At this stage, we are merely estimating costs and identifying possible resources," Fitial said in an Oct. 19 response letter to former senator and Tinian mayoralty candidate Ramon M. Dela Cruz.

Press secretary Charles Reyes said yesterday the administration is still in the development stage and it must consult and clear with the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

Dela Cruz urged Fitial to reconsider

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CUC insists no Rota customers were overcharged. **PAGE 2**
Special payments for service members now available. **PAGE 3**

Local

CUC insists no Rota customers were overcharged

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña said he intends not to respond to the request of Sen. Paterno Hocog for some documentation about Rota customers, explaining that CUC did not overcharge its customers on the island.

"We don't intent to [comply with Hocog's request] because we don't believe we overcharged anyone," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

Hocog requested Muña's office to disclose the names of all its customers on Rota who received overbillings on their utility consumption early this month.

The lawmaker said the move was to ensure that affected customers will be provided refunds on their payment.

His request came after the Superior Court ruled on the case filed by Rep. Stanley Torres and Jack Angello against CUC. The court had directed CUC to recalculate the billings of the two after ruling that the rate hike CUC implemented in July to October 2006 was unconstitutional.

The same case was used as reference in a class suit recently filed against CUC.

Hocog also inquired as to how much was the total overbilling received by Rota customers as well as CUC's plan to solve the problem.

Muña pointed out that the lawmaker and the public must be aware that CUC is now under the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, which decides on important issues for the agency.

"CUC is now under the commission so when there is a situation that requires us to pay for something that is not in our rates, then we have to go to the commission and get relief," he explained.

Records from CUC showed that from July to October 2006, the actual fuel costs was $19.6 million.

From July 22 to July 31 in 2006, CUC spent $2.1 million on fuel costs; $6.6 million from Aug. 1 to Aug. 31; $6.7 million from Sept. 1 to 30; and $4.1 million from Oct. 1 to 23. After CUC implemented the rate hike, it collected $18.5 million versus the actual fuel cost of $19.6 million.

Muña pointed out that because of the court ruling, it led to customers—including those on Rota—to conclude that the agency was charging in excess of the customer's cost.

"Our mandate is only to collect for cost. What we incurred [in that period] was $19.6 million and we collected $18.6 million based on new rates. So we did not overcollect or overcharge our customers," Muna explained, adding that without the new rate in 2006 CUC would have had a shortfall of $8.7 million.

With the revenue situation of the government, he said there is no other option but to implement new rates to satisfy refunds and repayments if it did not win the case in court.

Man sues hardware for dog's vicious attack

A man has filed a lawsuit over the injuries he suffered when a dog allegedly attacked him as he was buying tires at a hardware on Tinian.

Alfred Dela Cruz sued the Saipan Triple Star Recycling Inc., owner of Tinian Triple Star Hardware, and the hardware's employee, Shun Li, also known as Kevin Li, for negligence and violation of the Municipal Dog Control Regulations.

Dela Cruz, through lawyer Ramon Quichocho, asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay him damages, attorney's fees, and court costs.

Quichocho stated in the complaint that the defendants allowed the dog to roam at large on its own and otherwise failed to restrain and control the dog.

Quichocho said that on May 26, 2009, his client went to the Tinian Triple Star Hardware in San Jose to purchase tires. The lawyer said Li walked with Dela Cruz toward the back of the store to look at some tires.

After looking at the tires, Li and Dela Cruz headed back toward the front of the store. Li, however, entered the side entrance to his front office, leaving Dela Cruz outside by himself.

As Dela Cruz walked to the front entrance of the store, a dog suddenly attacked him, Quichocho said. The dog allegedly bit Dela Cruz on the right leg several times.

The lawyer said his client suffered severe injuries that required medical treatment. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

SAIPAN'S HOTTEST CLUB
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House panel readies suggestions after oversight hearings on DPH

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

House Health, Education and Welfare Committee chair Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) yesterday said a set of recommendations will be issued by Monday after conducting oversight hearings on the Department of Public Health last week.

These recommendations include permanent appointments to many of the managerial positions, the hiring of physicians, and continued communication between DPH unit heads and the Legislature.

Torres, at the same time, said the hiring of doctors should have been done six or seven months ago, referring to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's declaration of a state of health emergency for the CNMI on Tuesday.

The declaration paves the way for the hiring of physicians from the Philippines and other countries outside the U.S. and Canada to help address the shortage of specialists in the CNMI.

"Nothing prevented DPH from hiring doctors. I hope the governor and DPH will be hiring U.S.-certified doctors," he said.

Torres said among the doctors that should be hired immediately include a surgeon, emergency room doctors, a pediatrician, nephrologists, an internal medicine doctor and a radiologist.

The committee will be meeting again today to work on the recommendations.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez started meeting with DPH personnel to be able to comply with the requirements of the governor's 30-day emergency declaration.

Torres said a lot of the issues plaguing DPH started when Villagomez went on medical leave seven months ago.

"And this is the reason why we called for the oversight hearings and not for anything else. Since Villagomez left seven months ago, public service by the hospital diminished tremendously…We had eight to 11 positions filled by those in acting capacity and that's causing disruption in management and operations," he said.

Fitial ordered DPH to immediately adopt appropriate recruitment strategies to restore an adequate level of medical services and to submit within 10 days of the declaration a written plan to move the CNMI from its present "medical emergency" status to an acceptable level of care.

The governor also directed the Medical Profession Licensing Board "to review and revise regulations so that expanded medical services may be provided to the client population of the Commonwealth" within 15 days of the declaration.

MVA

Hundreds of military personnel and civilians attended the Anderson Annual Travel Fair on October 15, 2009, in Guam. The Marianas Visitors Authority used the opportunity to pass out destination DVD and brochures and speak personally to potential visitors. In fiscal year 2009 the Northern Mariana Islands received over 18,000 visitors from Guam, a figure the MVA is working to increase this fiscal year.

MVA targets Guam military, civilians at fair

With the tens of thousands additional people expected to move to Guam as part of the developing military build-up in the region, the Marianas Visitors Authority continues to build on its marketing presence on the neighboring island.

To build on the 18,000 visitors from Guam who visited Saipan, Tinian, or Rota last fiscal year, the MVA recently participated in an all day Anderson Annual Travel Fair and information forum held Oct. 15 at Anderson Air Force Base on Guam. Held at the on-base shopping mall, the showcase drew large crowds of interested travelers. Several hundred attendees availed themselves of the information presented by Micronesian state visitor organizations and representatives of tourist attractions and tourist-oriented businesses. Attendees also had the opportunity to ask questions and get immediate feedback about destinations that interested them.

"This is an extremely cost effective method of getting travel information to military personnel and civilians with military base access on Guam", said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "Attendees expressed excitement about the information they received, and many vowed to travel to the Northern Marianas soon."

The Saipan, Tinian and Rota booth was extremely well attended and a large number of destination DVDs and brochures were handed out directly to parties interested in travel to the Northern Marianas. *(MVA)*

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

USS Santa Fe arrives today

The USS Santa Fe, a 362-foot Los Angeles-class submarine with approximately 110 officers and crew, will arrive this morning, Oct. 24, on its first-ever visit to the Commonwealth. The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, which will be represented at the arrival briefing, is urging everyone to continue to build the CNMI's reputation as the preferred MWR (Morale, Welfare, and Recreation) destination in the Asia-Pacific Region by warmly welcoming these sailors to the islands. The Santa Fe is scheduled to depart next Thursday. *(SCC)*

Navy, Air Force to exercises on FDM

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy and Air Force will conduct live-fire and laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Oct. 27 - 28, from 1pm to 7pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and dates indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. *(PR)*

'Thanks For Giving Walk' has new date

The Team Courage sponsored walk has been rescheduled to Nov. 14, 2009. The Thanks For Giving Walk is coordinated by CNMI cancer survivors and will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base, starting at 7am. Participating in this event is an opportunity for families and friends to get a head start in fielding a team for the MMAC event next year. Veteran teams for the MMAC have already begun fundraising. Interested in joining, but don't have a team yet? Contact Janine Nogis at 483-4207 or send an email to MMAC2010@googlegroups.com. *(PR)*

Special payments for stop-loss service members now available

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Special payments are now available to over 185,000 service members, including those from the Northern Mariana Islands, who had their enlistments involuntarily extended since Sept. 11, 2001. The special payments are $500 for every month the service members were held under stop-loss orders.

"We established this payment in the 2009 War Supplemental Appropriations Act enacted in July," said U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, who announced the release of the funds yesterday. "Because our those who serve America deserve the best our government can possibly offer.

"This $500 per month payment will help these service members who literally served beyond the call of duty. Those extra months of service placed a special hardship on these troops and their families and this payment helps to compensate.

The Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay is available to service members who had their enlistment extended or retirement suspended due to Stop Loss between Sept. 11, 2001 and Sept. 30, 2009. Service members from every branch of the military will receive compensation.

Service members may begin submitting their claim for Retroactive Stop Loss Special Pay today. All applications must be submitted to the respective services no later than Oct. 21, 2010. Service members must provide documented proof they were Stop Lossed with their claim. Family members of deceased service members should contact the appropriate military service for assistance in filing their claim.

Army: https://www.stoploss-pay.army.mil

Navy: send email to – NXAG_N132C@navy.mil

Marine Corps: https://www.manpower.usmc.mil/stoploss

Air Force: http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/stoploss

"This Congress made a promise to leave no veteran behind, and we are continuously working to fulfill that promise," said Kilili. *(PR)*

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Pacific region sends out call for 350 'Int'l Day of Climate Change Action'

Actions and events are planned in every Pacific Island nation for the 350 International Day of Climate Action today, Oct. 24. In the last 24 hours, events from the Federated States of Micronesia and Kiribati have been registered with www.350.org, completing the entire list of Pacific countries.

Pacific communities, many of whom are already affected by climate change, are uniting to create actions that will raise awareness of climate change impacts in the Pacific. Each country's call for action on climate change will be broadcast through a global network, including on a huge screen in Times Square, New York.

In Kiribati, the 350 action involves over 2000 students and the President, Anote Tong, in a beach clean up. In FSM, 350 coconut trees are being planted after a celebration of the use of coconuts in traditional society.

Inhabitants of Cartaret Island will be some of the first people in the world to be displaced by climate change. The 350 action will be located at their proposed relocation site to highlight the massive implications of climate change on their future. Cartaret Islanders will be transported by boat in a flotilla to the relocation site where church gongs will ring 350 times and 350 mangrove seedlings will be planted. There will also be live contemporary and traditional song and dance performances.

Many of the Pacific events involve peoples aggregating in traditional dress, and performances of traditional song and dance. In Fiji, the Econesians are staging a giant procession in Suva with song, dance, poetry and entertainment. The Pacific Council of Churches is organising lalis (traditional wooden gongs) 350 times to show their support for a safe climate future.

In the Solomon Islands a public march will culminate with traditional Kastom dance and music in the 'Cultural Village'. Traditional song and dance will also be a major part of events in Papua New Guinea.

Oct. 24 will see the largest simultaneous global climate action ever staged. ***(SPC)***

Six Saipan beaches red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on six sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from DPW Channel Bridge, S. Puerto Rico Dump, Hafa Dai Beach Hotel Beach, Garapan Fishing Dock, Sugar Dock and San Antonio Beach on Saipan contained excessive concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Samples from Rota did not exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

Managaha and Tinian beaches were not sampled this week. DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

4 GROUPS

From Page 1

Commission for a casino license.

Rota Treasure Island Corp. plans to operate a $25 million casino at the existing Rota Hotel in Sunton, its president Masahiro Watanabe said. It is also the first Japanese group of investors eyeing a casino operation on the island.

The current owner of the Rota Resort & Country Club, Hee Kyun Cho, said he will also operate a $10 million casino in his hotel property, as well as build a $1 million water bottling facility.

Casino operation is allowed only on Tinian and Rota, not on Saipan.

So far, however, only the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is operating. Three other groups of investors are planning to operate casinos on Tinian—Neo Gold Wings Paradise, Bridge Investment Group, and Marianas Resort Development Corp.

From 1991 to 2003, Rota tried four times to allow casino operation without success through public initiative.

However, in November 2007, Rota voters overwhelmingly voted in favor of the public initiative to allow casino gaming. 85 percent of the votes cast voted in favor of the initiative, now known as the Rota Casino Act of 2007.

Saipan voters rejected casino operations on the island.

REPAIR

From Page 1

his decision to reprogram remaining funds from Tinian's instrument landing system project to fund the rehabilitation of Tinian's outer seawalls and piers. There's $3 million in remaining funds earmarked for the ILS project.

Fitial, in an Oct. 19 letter, said it is his understanding that the Interior, the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and the Federal Aviation Administration may have reservations about funding an ILS system for Tinian in view of the system on Saipan.

Dela Cruz added that there's no need to declare a state of emergency for the island.

The governor, in response, said an emergency declaration was made in order to allow the offices of the governor and the Tinian mayor to bring the required resources to the problems caused by the continuing deterioration of the outer seawall.

"The continued deterioration of this seawall directly impacts the Tinian harbor and we need to bring additional resources to address this issue. Representatives of my staff met with the staff of Mayor (Jose P.) San Nicolas last week to review design plans for the harbor and to develop a plan to resolve this serious problem," Fitial told Dela Cruz.

The Tinian mayor earlier said the harbor project will cost between $2 million and $3 million, and another $45 million will be needed to repair/rebuild Tinian's breakwater.

He also said some $15 million in capital improvement project funding is available for reprogramming, and he hopes that a portion of this will be reprogrammed for the outer seawall and piers.

In his own declaration of a state of emergency for Tinian, San Nicolas said typhoons severely deteriorated the outer seawall and piers built during World War II, leaving the inner dock of Tinian harbor vulnerable with risk to continued operation of ferry boats and other marine traffic which is essential to public safety and commercial needs. He said if allowed to continue, such conditions will lead to destruction of harbor piers.

Tinian projects

In related news, the Tinian Legislative Delegation identified six capital improvement projects to be implemented in 2010, but it's not known yet how much these projects would cost and where all the funding will come from.

These projects include the design of the Tinian landfill and the closure of the existing landfill to comply with environmental requirements; the rehabilitation and renovation of the Tinian airport terminal to comply with U.S. Department of Homeland Security requirements so as to continue international flights; and the construction of a water reservoir to improve water service.

Also on the project list are improvements to Tinian schools to eliminate overcrowding and hazardous conditions; the repair of the inner harbor seawall to eliminate hazard and improve commercial facilities; and the extension of utilities to homestead areas to allow for the development of these areas.

Fitial said these projects are scheduled for completion within the next 12 months.

"I concur with the Tinian Delegation in the selection of these programs, as they address important elements of Tinian infrastructure," Fitial said.

UMBRELLA

From Page 1

with some leaders of alien worker groups at Labor's conference room, acting Labor deputy secretary Barry Hirshbein and Labor special legal counsel Deanne Siemer disclosed that about 2,500 to 3,000 more "umbrella permits" will be issued for the second batch of workers.

United Workers Movement Inc. president Rabby Syed, Dekada Movement president Bonifacio Sagana, activist Malou Berueco, and other leaders of different alien worker groups attended the forum.

Reps. Tina Sablan and Ed Salas were also present and raised some questions and concerns.

Siemer explained how they and Gov. Benigno R. Fitial established the "umbrella permit" policy and its importance to stabilizing the CNMI workforce.

Siemer said that, while facing uncertainty due to the upcoming federalization, Fitial wants alien workers to feel comfortable and welcome in the Commonwealth.

"This is just protection," she said.

When federalization comes in and if the federal government offers a program that alien workers believe are good for them, they can throw away the umbrella permits if they want, Hirshbein said.

"It's only about signing and distribution," said Hirsbein, referring to next week's issuance of the "umbrella permits to the first batch of workers.

Hirsbein said if workers fail to get the permits for any reason, Labor can make accommodations for them. He said they also recognize those who are currently off-island.

The forum was still ongoing when *Saipan Tribune* left the conference room.

Labor announced last week that it will begin releasing the transitional conditional permits on Monday, Oct. 26. The release of the permits will be done in alphabetical order.

Labor officials said the "umbrella permits" will stabilize the workforce, protect employers and employees, and prevent undue damage to the economy.

Labor intends to finish distributing all permits by Oct. 30, 2009.

Labor said an alien worker should hold the "umbrella permit" for the entire two-year period unless Labor revokes it.

The federalization law states that any Commonwealth-issued permit that is in existence on Nov. 27, 2009, will be honored for two years after the law's transition date. The transition date is currently set for Nov. 28, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

ROBBERY

From Page 1

A 72-year-old Korean male had a bruise on his chest. He was treated at CHC and later released.

The second victim, a 45-year-old Filipino male, had a gash on the head that required nine staples. He was treated at CHC and later released.

DPS spokesman Jason Tarkong said that, at 12:46pm, police officers responded to Pink Pawnshop after receiving a call about a robbery.

Tarkong said preliminary investigation showed that two witnesses in a car noticed two persons dressed in dark clothing and with dark masks on their faces enter Pink Pawnshop.

The witnesses also observed that the suspects were armed with a machete, a sledge hammer, and a crow bar. The witnesses pulled over into a parking lot and called the emergency hotline 911.

The two witnesses, including one armed with a piece of metal, waited outside the pawnshop for the suspects to emerge. Moments later, when the two suspects came out of the pawnshop, the witnesses confronted them.

One suspect, later identified as Martin, who was armed with a rifle and machete, swung the gun at one of the witnesses. When he failed to hit the witness, Martin dropped the rifle and ran south, still carrying his machete. The second suspect dropped his sledge hammer and also ran south.

The two witnesses chased the suspects into the Chalan Kanoa village. Responding police officers assisted in the foot chase and apprehended Martin, who was found hiding in a storage shack located behind a house in Chalan Kanoa.

Martin was breathing hard and was bleeding from a small laceration on the right thumb when arrested. The other suspect managed to escape.

The two witnesses identified Martin as one of the suspects who robbed the pawnshop.

Police learned from the two injured employees that the suspects walked into the pawnshop and used a sledge hammer to break the locked door to the cashier's booth.

The suspects demanded money from the two victims inside the booth. The robbers then hit the victims with the sledge hammer and crowbar.

The Korean victim defended himself by grabbing a pellet gun located within the pawnshop. But Martin was able to grab the gun and used it to assault the Korean.

The suspects stole about $6,000 cash.

Police recovered at the scene the sledge hammer, a pellet gun rifle, and machete. Police found cash on Martin and secured it as evidence.

DPS Commissioner Santiago F. Tudela commended the two witnesses who assisted in the capture of Martin.

"However, we would like to remind the public to never confront dangerous criminals involved in risky behavior," Tudela said.

In January 2008, the Office of the Attorney General charged Martin, ex-convict Steven Suzuki, and Quincy Oiterong of robbing three poker arcades on Saipan last year.

In June 2007, police arrested the same three men for allegedly attempting to rob another poker establishment in Susupe.

When Martin was 18 years old, he was charged along with Lester Serrilo for burglarizing the residence of Mariano R. Bermudes in February 2007.

Police are still looking into the possibility that Martin's group was responsible for the recent spate of armed robbery cases at poker arcades and a pawnshop on the island.

FOA presents Arsenic & Old Lace today, tomorrow

Friends of the Arts dishes out a recipe for murder as they present *Arsenic & Old Lace*, a play by American playwright Joseph Kesselring, written in 1939.

According to a Wikipedia entry, the play is a farcical comedy revolving around Mortimer Brewster, a theatre-hating drama critic who must deal with his crazy, homicidal family and local police in Brooklyn, NY, as he debates whether to go through with his recent promise to marry the woman he loves.

Mort's family includes two spinster aunts who have taken to murdering lonely old men by poisoning them with a glass of home-made elderberry wine laced with arsenic, strychnine, and "just a pinch" of cyanide; a brother who believes he is Teddy Roosevelt and digs locks for the Panama Canal in the cellar of the Brewster home (which then serve as graves for the aunts' victims); and a murderous brother who has had plastic surgery performed by an alcoholic accomplice, Dr. Einstein, to conceal his identity and now looks like horror-film actor Boris Karloff.

Arsenic & Old Lace has become best known through the film adaptation starring Cary Grant and directed by Frank Capra.

Performances began Friday, Oct. 23, and continues today, Oct. 24, at 7pm and Sunday, Oct. 25, at 3pm at Charley's Cabaret at PIC. Tickets are $15 for non-FOA members, $12 for members, and $10 for students (dessert is included), and are available from any FOA Board member or at the door. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
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EDITORIAL

Detente on ice

There were hints of progress in the nuclear talks with Iran on Wednesday as Iranian negotiators in Vienna accepted for consideration a plan under which Iran would ship most of its current stockpile of enriched uranium out of the country. But there also was a contrary signal from Tehran about the desire of its extremist regime for detente with the West. That was the reported sentencing of Iranian American academic Kian Tajbakhsh to 15 years in prison on a blatantly bogus charge of espionage.

Mr. Tajbakhsh, a well-known expert on urban planning, had no role in the protests that erupted after Iran's fraudulent presidential election in June. He told friends that he was "keeping his head down." In fact he was preparing to begin a teaching appointment at Columbia University this fall. But Mr. Tajbakhsh, who was educated in Britain and the United States but has lived in Iran since 1999, was a convenient pawn for the regime's hard-liners. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and his supporters in Iran's Revolutionary Guard are trying to prove that the vast opposition movement against them is the product of a conspiracy by Western intelligence agencies and nongovernmental organizations such as the Open Society Institute, for which Mr. Tajbakhsh once worked as an adviser.

The arrest and trial of Mr. Tajbakhsh and more than 140 other people, including a number of opposition leaders, constitute a key element in the coup that the regime's hard-liners have staged against more moderate elements—including those who genuinely favor rapprochement with the West. The tactical concessions that Mr. Ahmadinejad's government is hinting at in Vienna complement the crackdown: By striking deals with Western leaders, the ruling clique seeks to legitimize itself at home. If it wins the domestic power struggle, there is no chance that it will retreat from its attempt to acquire nuclear weapons or to gain influence over the Middle East through terrorism and militant groups such as Hezbollah and Hamas.

The Obama administration and other Western governments say that they are cognizant of the danger of strengthening Mr. Ahmadinejad and his superior, supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. But they have been cautious about following the advice of Iranians such as Nobel Peace prize winner Shirin Ebadi, who is urging the administration to talk as much about the treatment of people such as Mr. Tajbakhsh as it does about Iran's nuclear program. To be sure, White House and State Department spokesmen protested Mr. Tajbakhsh's sentence; the White House statement said that he "embodies what is possible between our two countries." We hope that President Obama himself will see fit to speak up about Mr. Tajbakhsh's case and others like it. The fact that Tehran is imprisoning the very people capable of building bridges between Iran and the United States is a clear message to the president about how the regime regards his "engagement" policy.

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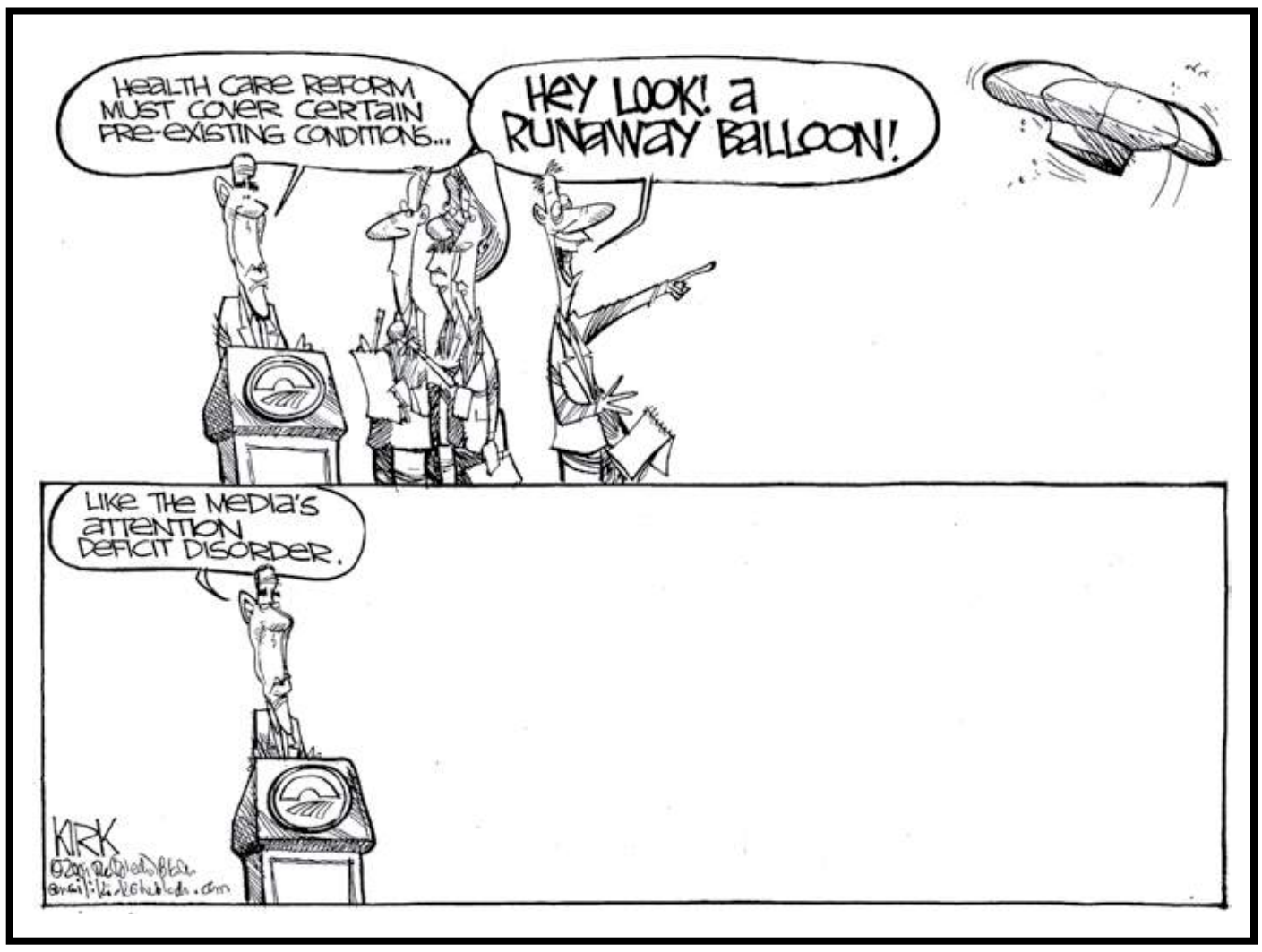
HEALTH CARE REFORM MUST COVER CERTAIN PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS...
HEY LOOK! A RUNAWAY BALLOON!
LIKE THE MEDIA'S ATTENTION DEFICIT DISORDER.
KIRK

The Iran talks we should end

By JOHN B. BELLINGER III
Special to The Washington Post

The writer, a partner in Arnold & Porter LLP and an adjunct senior fellow in international and national security law at the Council on Foreign Relations, served as State Department legal adviser from April 2005 to January 2009. In that capacity he appeared before the tribunal.

The tentative deal announced Wednesday whereby Tehran will transfer about three-quarters of its nuclear fuel out of the country for enrichment in Russia came after nearly three days of talks between senior U.S. and Iranian officials. Even before those discussions, the face-to-face meeting this month between senior U.S. and Iranian officials in Geneva was much ballyhooed—but not unprecedented. Since 1981, officials of the two countries have been quietly meeting in The Hague to resolve billions of dollars in claims arising from the Iranian revolution and the resulting rupture of diplomatic relations between the two countries.

The meetings are held under the auspices of the Iran-U.S. Claims Tribunal, which was established by the agreement that resolved the 1979 hostage crisis. While it has done important work, the tribunal has largely outlived its utility for both sides—and the Obama administration could face a significant international legal challenge if the tribunal orders the United States to make large monetary payments to the Iranian government.

The tribunal behaves much like a court. Iran and the United States submit, brief and argue cases before nine judges: three appointed by each country and three third-country judges mutually agreed upon or appointed by a neutral authority. Its hearings, held in a converted hotel on a residential street, have allowed U.S. and Iranian legal advisers and their teams to speak directly on a range of issues.

When it was set up under the Algiers Accords, the tribunal was expected to resolve all outstanding claims in a few years. It has labored for nearly three decades, conducting more than 300 hearings and issuing more than 20,000 orders. The tribunal has made 600 awards resolving claims by nationals of the two countries, or by one government against the other, including more than $2.5 billion in awards to U.S. nationals or the U.S. government and roughly $1 billion to the Iranian government. It is still working on some of the most complicated cases: disputes relating to contracts for sales and services of military equipment produced by U.S. companies for Iran before 1979.

Matters have long been complicated by the consistently bad behavior of the Iranian government. For more than a decade, Iran failed to pay hundreds of millions of dollars into a security account established for judgments in favor of U.S. claimants. It has repeatedly filed challenges to the third-country judges who have ruled against Iranian claims. Iran even denounced the tribunal's appointing authority, a former chief justice of the Dutch Supreme Court, after he rejected its demand to remove tribunal President Krzysztof Skubiszewski, a former Polish foreign minister. Last year, all three Iranian judges resigned en masse, citing disagreements with the other judges.

Iran's strategy appears to be seeking to force out the third-country judges so they can be replaced by judges more to Tehran's liking, or to provoke the U.S. administration into a dramatic overreaction. So far, neither has happened. (And the 83-year-old Skubiszewski, who grew up resisting Nazi and Communist oppression, appears unlikely to bow to bullying.)

In July, the tribunal dismissed, 5 to 4, Iran's claim for $2.2 billion in compensation for military equipment that had been ordered by Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi but that the U.S. government had refused to allow U.S. companies to deliver after the hostage crisis. Had the tribunal ordered Washington to pay Iran even a fraction of what it had sought, the administration would have been forced to choose between complying with U.S. obligations under the Algiers Accords, and thus paying millions of dollars (or more) to a government that has been supporting terrorism and secretly building uranium enrichment facilities, or ignoring an international court.

But the Obama administration still faces a threat. The tribunal left the door open for Iran to relitigate aspects of this dispute, and Tehran still has claims worth billions of dollars in other cases.

The administration must decide what approach to take toward the tribunal. Under international law, the administration has a reasonable basis for suspending U.S. participation in the dispute-resolution body because of Iranian efforts to undermine it. But this administration has emphasized its commitment to international law, and choosing this option could incur international criticism and further legal challenges.

The tentative deal announced Wednesday is expected to buy time to establish a diplomatic solution to the impasse over Iran's nuclear ambitions. Rather than continuing to hope for the best, the Obama administration should add the future of the tribunal and remaining bilateral claims to the list of issues to be discussed with Iran. U.S. negotiators might suggest that the tribunal be dissolved, with outstanding Iranian claims withdrawn in exchange for U.S. payment for enrichment of Iranian uranium outside of Iran. Issues concerning diplomatic properties of both governments, which have been the subject of claims before the tribunal, could also be resolved, paving the way for the gradual resumption of diplomatic ties.

If it does nothing, the administration may lose an opportunity to close down a diplomatic vestige and risk future tribunal awards that the United States would be legally required to pay but find it politically impossible to do so.

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Sister relationships never change

By SUSAN REIMER
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

My mother gave birth to four daughters in five years, and my sisters and I grew up fighting like cats in a pillowcase.

She didn't help matters much by giving each of us a capsule description and then using those descriptions almost in place of our names.

I was the oldest and her "rock of Gibraltar." Cynthia was born 14 months later, and she was "a joy to behold." Ellen came two years later and she was "a breath of spring." Poor Elizabeth, born last and when my mother was pretty much at the end of her rope, was "the pain in the ass."

My mother had succeeded in setting up a sisterly dynamic that would have made Deborah Tannen's eyes grow large. The Georgetown University linguistics professor who has written so many successful books about how conversation shapes relationships has just published her latest: "You Were Always Mom's Favorite! Sisters in Conversation Throughout Their Lives."

She talked to more than 100 women of all ages, races, regions and ethnicities about their sisters, and almost every one began the interview the same way: "We're very different."

Whether the women went on to describe a close relationship or a fractured one, they began by describing themselves in comparison to their sisters.

In addition, whether the relationships were smooth or fraught, the undercurrent of competition between the sisters was unmistakable, Tannen said.

"A compliment to one can feel like a slight to the other," she recently told an audience made up almost entirely of, well, sisters. "It all comes down to the same thing: Who is more deserving of love."

She told the story of two sisters who were talking on the phone. One reported that she'd spoken to their mother twice that day. The other sister said she had spoken to their mother just once. "`But we had a better conversation,'" Tannen recounted.

Sisters, more than brothers or even married couples, talk more often and for longer periods about more personal topics. "You have more of a chance to connect but also more of an opportunity to say the wrong thing."

Sisters, too, are particularly good at sending—and receiving—what she calls "metamessages" (we'd call them zingers) that have powerful subtexts.

Birth order plays a part, too. Tannen said that oldest sisters, like me, often reported that they were accused by their younger sisters of being bossy.

"But they are expected to play a parental role. They are used to being a surrogate mother, a parentified child, and they get used to telling the others what to do."

In contrast, the youngest sister—even as an adult—continues to feel her incompetence. She often interprets help as criticism.

And the poor middle sisters are "a unique combination of the older and the younger." Puzzles in their own right, who must figure out how to relate to sisters both up and down the ladder.

Tannen's very talented ear allows her to see inside our most intense relationships using the window of our words. Husbands and wives, mothers and daughters. And now, sisters. Everyone who has a sister will see her sister in this book. Perhaps she will see herself as well.

"You think things should be fair and the same and equal because you were both born into the same family," Tannen told her audience. "But that's an illusion. It's a different family when each child is born. A sister is like yourself in a different movie, a movie that stars you in a different life."

If the truth is told, baby Elizabeth was a pain in the ass. She never took naps, refused to stay in her crib and dated a biker in high school. But she also grew up to be a nurse and shepherded my mother through her complex end-of-life care.

Ellen, the breath of spring, became a doctor's office manager and the expert who managed my mother's insurance issues.

Cynthia, the joy to behold, was married to a lawyer and brought him to every doctor consultation to make sure we received the attention we needed.

Me? The rock of Gibraltar? I turned out not to be good for much more than comic relief at this critical time.

So I'd sleep in the hospital room chair all night and bring her McDonald's for breakfast.

E-mail Reimer at susan.reimer@baltsun.com.

With Columbine, does more really need to be said?

By MEGHAN DAUM
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

The November issue of O Magazine (that's the Oprah Magazine) features a series of articles about how to be "your true self," a guide to do-it-yourself hair coloring and—thud—an essay by Susan Klebold. In April 1999, her son, Dylan, along with his classmate, Eric Harris, killed 12 students, a teacher and themselves in a massacre that would thereafter be known simply as Columbine, the deadliest high school shooting in the nation's history.

Even for the indomitable Oprah Winfrey, Klebold must have been a real "get." Klebold had apparently turned down repeated interview requests over the years, and a spokesperson announced that she has no plans to appear on "The Oprah Winfrey Show," nor was she paid for the article.

"I'd had no inkling of the battle Dylan was waging in his mind," Klebold wrote, admitting that even though a teacher had become alarmed by Dylan's paper about a man in a black trench coat who murders nine students, friends and family remained convinced for months after the attack that he hadn't meant to hurt anyone. Meanwhile, Susan Klebold was "nearly insane with sorrow for the suffering my son had caused, and with grief for the child I'd lost. Much of the time I felt that I could not breathe, and I often wished that I would die."

What's notable about the essay, aside from the way the details remain jaw-dropping even 10 years later, is Klebold's decision to couch it as a form of suicide awareness. The last several paragraphs are largely devoted to various statistics about suicide, and Klebold even provides the phone number for the national suicide prevention "lifeline." "I hope that, by reading of my experience, someone will see what I missed," she writes.

We heard a lot about Columbine last April, the 10-year anniversary of the event. In his exhaustively researched book on the event, author Dave Cullen examined how the facts of what happened were so misrepresented and so misconstrued by the public that a set of myths arose that came to define the entire notion of disaffected adolescence, even if they had little to do with the event itself. Contrary to what was widely reported, the shooters were not members of a "trench coat mafia" who targeted jocks and other popular kids in their rampage. Instead, it seems fairly clear that Harris met the clinical definition of a psychopath, and Klebold's suicidal depression made him vulnerable to Harris' influence. Though they weren't members of the "in crowd," they had plenty of friends and weren't widely seen as outcasts. Despite countless rumors otherwise, their victims were random.

But there was a reason the rumors gained such traction. It's easier to believe in the idea of a trench coat mafia and to make pat assumptions about teenagers and their social hierarchy than it is to come to terms with the idea that one kid would kill for the sake of killing and another would so willingly go along for the ride.

And it's hard not to see Susan Klebold's essay as, if not a continuation of the myths, an extension of the impulse that causes people to repeat them. Though she comes across as a sincere and thoughtful woman, the net effect of the whole endeavor seems like a form of pandering—to readers' sympathies and, more important, to the American obsession with "closure." We are not, after all, a culture that is particularly adept at accepting the more irrational aspects of tragedy, the randomness of death, the unknowability of a criminal's motives. Instead, we like to make sense of it all, to learn from mistakes, to erect memorials, observe anniversaries and offer up platitudes about finding peace.

Though Klebold avoids words such as "closure" in her essay (and, indeed, it is clear she will never find peace), her choice to view her son chiefly through the lens of suicide—and, to boot, to do it in O Magazine—diminishes the enormity of what happened. The ostensible reason for her article appearing now is that Nov. 21 is National Survivors of Suicide Day. But imagine being the mother of a suicide victim who didn't happen to take 13 people along with him. Would you want to commemorate Nov. 21 with Susan Klebold? Or would you prefer she speak solely for herself, even if what she had to say offered no comfort because it fit no familiar idiom and offered no resolution?

My guess is the latter. Besides, as Dylan himself demonstrated in a video he and Harris made just before they started shooting, attempts at closure can be appallingly hollow. "I just wanted to apologize to you guys for any crap this might instigate," he said to his parents.

Closure? Not even close.

Daum is an essayist and novelist in Los Angeles.

Nobody wins in Afghan runoff election

By RAJAN MENON
SPECIAL TO THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

Politicians love photo ops. So when Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., appeared alongside Hamid Karzai as the beleaguered Afghan president announced that he would agree to a runoff election, it was hardly surprising. Kerry was doing what politicians do.

Moreover, the senator was in Kabul to supplement the Obama administration's efforts to lean on Karzai to hold another presidential vote, given widespread evidence that the one held in August was rigged.

When Karzai claimed victory then, his main opponent, former Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah, cried foul, a chorus of international criticism arose and an Afghan government infamous for its ineptitude and sleaziness looked even more illegitimate.

It's this tricky context that makes Kerry's photo op problematic.

The Obama administration knows that no amount of firepower in the war will substitute for an Afghan government that is minimally effective, has the confidence of its people and is seen as independent.

The Taliban knows this as well, which is why, in addition to mounting an insurgency and launching suicide bombings, it has been busy painting the Americans as occupiers and Karzai as their puppet. The spectacle of the 6-foot-tall U.S. senator standing next to the Afghan president, who everyone knows was arm-twisted into making a concession he had resisted, simply helps the Taliban's PR campaign.

The runoff is to be held on Nov. 7—that's less than three weeks from now. Organizing it that quickly would be hard even for an honest and efficient government. But the Afghan government is an amalgam of consummate crookedness and incompetence. The first attribute means that the same dishonest impulses that led it to cheat in the August election will tempt it to steal the vote in the runoff—and to parry the ensuing criticism by arguing that Karzai went the extra mile by agreeing to a second round in a vote that he had rightfully won in the first.

The obvious solution is to make it very hard for ballot-rigging to occur. Yet given that violence is on the upswing in Afghanistan, can election monitors, especially if they are non-Afghans, do their job without risking life and limb? If not, what will ensure a clean vote?

The Karzai government's other trait, incompetence, boils down to this: It effectively has no control over large parts of the country, which are run by the Taliban or are dangerous because Taliban fighters are active there. This means that it is not capable of holding a fair election.

If the runoff is tainted, the divisions within the Afghan political class will become even deeper (hard as that is to imagine), the government will lose even more respect among Afghans (also hard to imagine), the Taliban will be delighted, and the U.S. will have an even more difficult time doing what the Obama administration seems confident it can do: creating viable institutions of governance in Afghanistan.

Then there's the matter of making sure voters don't get killed while voting. Even now, the combination of Afghan police and troops and American and allied forces is unable to stem the tide of Taliban-generated violence. That is precisely why Army Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, the commander of U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, has asked for 40,000 additional troops.

It's a sure bet that the Taliban, true to form, will warn voters to stay at home during the vote on pain of death, and try to kill those who are not intimidated. It has become a formidable force and is no longer confined to its Pashtun strongholds in the south and east. This raises the question of how the country can be made safe enough to ensure a reasonable turnout.

What about a surprising outcome: a fair vote that is won by Abdullah?

That denouement would cashier the Karzai government for sure, but it would also make an old problem much worse. Abdullah is a Tajik, and tensions among Tajiks, Pashtuns, Uzbeks and Hazaras have long been part of Afghanistan's politics. The Pashtuns have dominated the country's politics (Karzai is a Pashtun and the Taliban is overwhelmingly Pashtun) and will not meekly hand over the reins of power—the stakes are too high. Instead, they will resist, and Afghanistan's ethnic divisions will deepen.

Menon is a professor of international relations at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

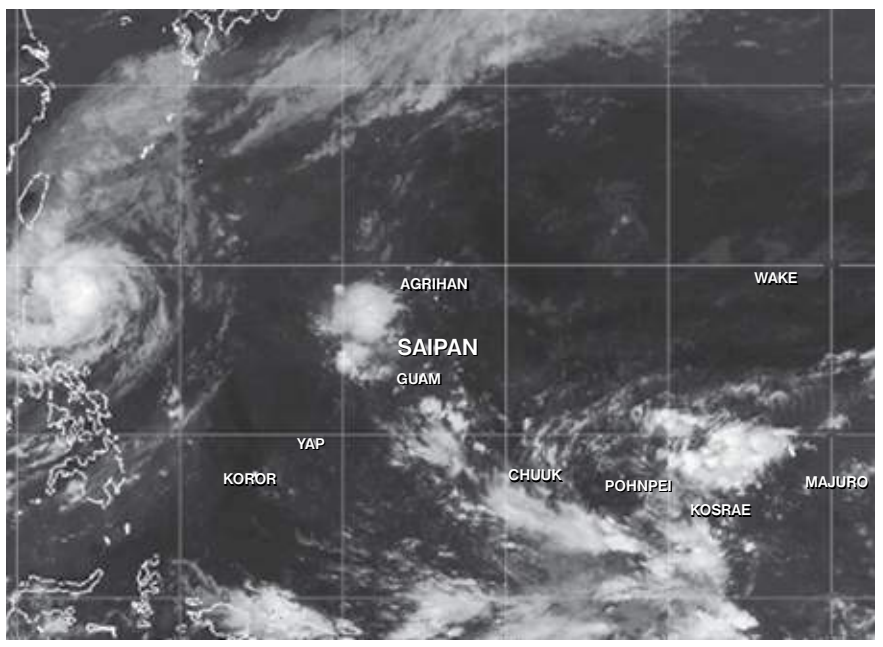
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Sunny	▲87	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼76
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼78
Pohnpei	Showers	▲87	▼74
Kosrae	Showers	▲87	▼76
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲62	▼53
Beijing	Cloudy	▲73	▼52
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲82	▼75
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲83	▼73
London	Showers	▲63	▼50
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲83	▼62
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼75
Melbourne	Sunny	▲70	▼48
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼76
New York	Rain	▲66	▼56
Osaka	Cloudy	▲71	▼52
Paris	Rain	▲65	▼49
Pusan	Sunny	▲71	▼54
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲73	▼51
Salem	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼40
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲73	▼55
Seoul	Sunny	▲70	▼52
Tokyo	Cloudy	▲66	▼57
Washington, DC	Rain	▲72	▼54

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough runs east-southeastward from 8N130E through a weak circulation east-southeast of Yap near 8N144E then continues eastward through another weak circulation centered near Pohnpei at 6N158E then finally through a broad circulation centered near Kosrae at 5N164E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the circulations and trough axis within 125 miles of a line from 10N145E to 2N163E and within 175 miles of a line from 8N161E to 10N165E. A surface trough arcs northward from 10N139E to 17N139E. Convergence near and to the east of the trough is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Mariana Islands between 14N and 18N between 139E to 143E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
5:31 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
1:13 PM Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
6:31 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
10:20 PM Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:11 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Monday	6:11 AM	5:51 PM
Tuesday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM
Wednesday	6:12 AM	5:50 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:28 AM	9:50 PM
Sunday	12:02 AM	11:34 PM
Monday	12:43 AM	
Tuesday	1:22 PM	12:24 AM
Wednesday	1:59 PM	1:12 AM

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  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
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- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 21, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Last flights Oct. 23 and 24
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	via NGO last flights Oct 21 and 23
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Last flights Oct. 21 to 24

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Last flights Oct. 21 to 24
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	via NGO last flights Oct 20 and 22
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Last flights Oct. 22, 23 and 24

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio
Sunday
9am Sunday school
10am Regular worship
6pm worship
Wednesday
7pm worship
Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries
Sunday 5:30am-6:30am Morning prayer
7am-9am English service
7am-9am Sunday school
10am-12noon English service, Koblerville
Wednesday 7pm-9pm Prayer meeting
Saturday 7pm-9pm Tagalog service
Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

OCT. 24, 2000

Deliberation on Cabrera corruption case begins
Jury deliberation began late yesterday on former Finance Sec. Antonio R. Cabrera after federal prosecutors wound up its corruption case and the defense decided not to present evidence or witnesses in the continuation of the trial in the U.S. District Court. Three government witnesses, including Finance Sec. Lucy DLG. Nielsen and Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte, testified at the last day of the trial, buttressing the prosecution's charges of theft, misspending of public funds and bribery against the ex-Cabinet official. If the jury finds him guilty on all charges, Mr. Cabrera, 40, could face up to 10 years imprisonment and fine of not over $250,000 for each of the five counts contained in his indictment.

CPA to join U.S.-Japan talks on open skies pact
The Commonwealth Ports Authority intends to participate in a scheduled discussion on open skies agreement between the United States and Japan governments, in fresh efforts to improve Saipan's access to the North Asian country. CPA Executive Director Carlos H. Salas has sought the assistance of Airports Council International-North America on how the agency can actively and effectively participate in the consultation meetings slated next month in Tokyo, Japan. "We are quite interested and would very much appreciate any details or recommendations that you could offer in order for CPA to more effectively participate in the meeting," Mr. Salas told ACI-NA Senior Vice President Diane Peterson in a letter.

OCT. 24, 2001

NMI's anti-anthrax drive gains ground
With the anthrax scare sprouting in different parts of the globe, the US Department of Justice has assured the Commonwealth with federal money to upgrade its capability to combat bioterrorism. This was disclosed by Dr. Richard Brostrom, medical director of the Department of Public Health, who attended the meeting in Capitol Hill. Brostrom said three Texas-based consultants from the justice department are on island to help the Commonwealth draft a two-year plan against bioterrorism.

Crisis drowning hotels in deep losses
Hotel operators warned that the worsening economic situation in the CNMI may force them to cease operations unless visitor arrivals statistics pick up in three months. In order to ward off deeper losses, a big number of major hotels in the CNMI have already started taking painful cuts in operations, which translated to manpower reduction and the closure of some facilities during idle hours. Some have also held off the contract renewal of their nonresident workers, who were asked to go on vacation, and were promised to be taken in again once the situation gets better.

OCT. 24, 2002

FAA takes over airport security CPA said SIA federalized by October 28
The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will be fully federalized on October 28, when newly appointed federal security director for Saipan airport John T. Peoples takes over the helm of security screening operations at the lobby and checkpoint areas of the airport. Roll-out will begin on midnight of October 28, when federal agents and newly-hired screening officers take charge of the security measures at the airport-almost a year after the initial plan to federalize all airports across the United States. Peoples, together with Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas, paid a courtesy visit to Gov. Juan N. Babauta the other day. He arrived on Saipan Saturday and officially came on board Monday.

National Guard plan inches forward
The Legislature is close to finalizing a joint resolution expressing the House and the Senate's unified stance on the need for the CNMI's own National Guard, Rep. Martin A. Ada disclosed yesterday. Ada, the chair of the House Committee on Judicial and Governmental Operations, said he is working closely with his Senate counterpart in ironing out the resolution—a major step in the Commonwealth's bid to set up a state militia. "Our research in terms of how to form the National Guard is close to being completed. This is a major undertaking. The joint resolution is voicing our intent to have our own militia to the President of the United States, as well as the U.S Congress," he said.

Business

US unveils broad effort to limit executive pay

WASHINGTON (AP)—The government zeroed in on corporate excess and recklessness Thursday with deep, unprecedented cuts in executive compensation at companies living on taxpayer money and a move to wield veto power over pay policy at thousands of banks to limit risk-taking.

The Treasury Department ordered seven big companies that haven't repaid their government bailout money to cut their top executives' average total compensation—salary and bonuses—in half, starting in November. Under the plan, cash salaries for the top 25 highest-paid executives will be limited in most cases to $500,000 and, in most cases, perks will be capped at $25,000.

The Federal Reserve came at the issue from another direction. It proposed to monitor pay packages at thousands of banks—even those that never received bailout money—to ensure they don't encourage reckless gambles.

Neither plan, though, is expected to kill Wall Street's culture of lavish pay. The Fed proposal doesn't set specific limits on executive compensation, so it's unclear how it would actually affect pay. And the Treasury plan covers only 175 people, with the pay limits lasting only until the companies repay what they received from the $700 billion bailout fund.

For the already struggling companies, it also introduces a new concern: brain drain. The executives targeted by "pay czar" Kenneth Feinberg are among the most talented and productive at their companies.

"These people are considered the brains of the machine," said Steven Hall, who runs an executive compensation firm bearing his name. "They are who can pull you through the tough times. This will give them reason to leave."

The Treasury plan is limited to the seven bailed-out companies—Bank of America Corp., American International Group Inc., Citigroup Inc., General Motors, GMAC, Chrysler and Chrysler Financial. The Fed's proposal is much broader in scope, covering nearly 6,000 banks and a wider range of employees—from executives to traders to loan officers.

Rather than set pay levels at specific banks, the Fed would review—and could veto—pay policies. The plan is subject to a 30-day public comment period.

David Yermack, a finance professor at the Stern School of Business at New York University, called Treasury's pay curbs a "symbolic" act.

"I think the government is trying to make examples of some banks and hoping others will follow," Yermack said. "I think that's naive. Wall Street bankers and traders are motivated by money, and they're going to work for whoever pays them the most."

Census bureau says 2020 count could include gays

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—The U.S. Census Bureau is making an unprecedented effort to include same-sex couples in next year's national population count, but legally married gay couples won't show up as such in the official once-a-decade tally, bureau representatives said Thursday.

Statistical problems related to the development of the 2010 census form and the evolving legal state of same-sex relationships led Census officials to conclude that trying to include married gay couples in the overall snapshot of household marital status could yield an inaccurate number, said Gary Gates, a University of California, Los Angeles demographer who has been advising the bureau on gay issues.

Instead, same-sex married couples will be added into the category for unmarried partners, just as they were for the 2000 census. But in a marked policy departure, the agency plans to make the data on same-sex couples who described themselves as married available on a state-by-state basis.

"The Bureau has decided to give us the information, but be a little cautious," Gates said.

The decision to develop separate sets of numbers was a compromise position that was "less about politics and more about accurate data," he said.

Gates stressed that it was important for gay couples to participate in the census, noting that information drawn from the last one had been used in lawsuits dealing with same-sex marriage and to lobby congressional representatives who may wrongly assume they do not have many gay constituents.

Because same-sex marriages were not legal in any U.S. state a decade ago, the 2010 census is the first for which the bureau has wrestled with how to count married same-sex couples. In June, census officials announced that they would make the attempt, reversing an earlier decision made under the Bush administration.

Since then, however, it's become clearer that a wildly inflated number could be produced if the number of heads of household who said they lived with another adult of the same sex, and described that person as a husband or wife, were only counted.

Nation

Largest US sting on drug cartel arrests 300-plus

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—In the largest single strike at Mexican drug operations in the U.S., authorities arrested more than 300 people in a sting that demonstrates an upstart cartel's vast reach north of the border.

The tentacles of "La Familia" extend coast to coast and deep into America's heartland, with arrests announced Thursday in 38 cities from Boston to Seattle and from St. Paul, Minn., to Raleigh, N.C.

Drug deals went down in Oklahoma parking lots, suppliers were advised to weld drugs into tire rims for transport, and in the Dallas and Seattle areas, dozens of children were removed from houses where authorities found drugs, guns or cash derived from drug sales.

Perhaps more than any other cartel, La Familia projects a Robin Hood image. The Drug Enforcement Administration said the group is "philosophically opposed to the sale of methamphetamine to Mexicans, and instead supports its export to the United States for consumption by Americans."

Mexican police say the gang uses religion and family morals to recruit. The gang has hung banners in towns saying they do not tolerate drug use, or attacks on women or children.

One of the gang's alleged recruiters, detained last spring, ran drug rehabilitation centers, helping addicts to recover and then forcing them to work for the drug gang or be killed, according to Mexico Public Safety Secretary Genaro Garcia Luna.

La Familia is rarely mentioned in the same breath as the handful of other Mexican gangs that control the flow of drugs into the United States, fueled by Colombian cocaine suppliers. The Sinaloa, Juarez, Gulf and Tijuana cartels have roots that go back many years, even decades.

But in its short history, La Familia is believed to have emerged as the biggest supplier of methamphetamine to the United States and, increasingly, a peddler of cocaine, marijuana and other drugs.

Complaints that were unsealed across the country portray an organization that spread deep into Middle America, down to small-time sales.

AP

San Bernardino County Sheriff Rod Hoops, at podium, speaks behind a display of weapons and drugs seized in special joint operation conducted with the DEA against the La Familia drug cartel based out of Michoacan, Mexico and operating in San Bernardino and surrounding counties, at a news conference at Sheriff's headquarters in San Bernardino, Calif., Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.

In Colorado, authorities seized 8 kilograms of cocaine, 3 pounds of methamphetamine and $313,785.

A federal grand jury has indicted 11 members or associates of La Familia from the Western Slope in Colorado, and six of them have been arrested so far, prosecutors said.

In Oklahoma, authorities seized about 20 pounds of methamphetamine, two pounds of cocaine, six weapons and several thousand dollars. They identified Ruben Garcia, 29, as a major supplier in the northeast part of the state.

Agents spotted Garcia and his partners dealing drugs over several months at restaurants, grocery stores and Wal-Mart parking lots in the Tulsa area, according to court documents. In one tapped phone call Oct. 9, Garcia counseled a supplier in Mexico who helped arrange a shipment in McAllen, Texas, that the easiest way to smuggle drugs is welded inside tire rims of vehicles.

Negotiators mull public option in health care bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Senior Senate Democrats at work with White House officials on health care legislation are strongly considering a requirement for the federal government to sell insurance in direct competition with private industry, officials said Thursday, with individual states permitted to drop out of the system.

Liberals in Congress long have viewed such an approach, called a public option, as an essential ingredient of the effort to overhaul the nation's health care system, and President Barack Obama has said frequently he favors it. But he has also made clear it is not essential to the legislation he seeks, a gesture to Democratic moderates who have opposed it.

Sens. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., and Kent Conrad, D-N.D., said in separate interviews they had been told the plan was drawing interest in the private negotiations unfolding in an ornate room in the Capitol down the hall from the Senate chamber.

The final decision is up to Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., who led a delegation of Democrats to the White House late in the day to discuss health care with Obama.

"I'm not part of those discussions. What I'm hearing is that this is the direction of the conversation," said Conrad, who supports an alternative approach under which nonprofit co-ops would compete with private industry.

"I keep hearing there is a lot of leaning toward some sort of national public option, unfortunately, from my standpoint," Nelson said.

The White House declined to comment.

Reid's office did likewise, and the Nevada Democrat left the White House without talking with reporters.

Several officials said no final decisions had been made about including the so-called public option into the legislation. In the extraordinarily complicated atmosphere surrounding health care, one possibility seemed to be that the idea of a public option was being given wide circulation to see whether it could attract enough support to survive on the Senate floor.

Poll: US belief in global warming is cooling

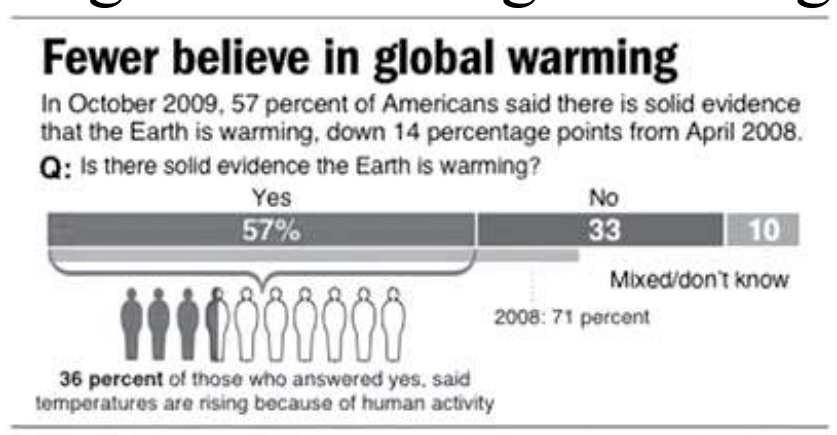
WASHINGTON (AP)—Americans seem to be cooling toward global warming. Just 57 percent think there is solid evidence the world is getting warmer, down 20 points in just three years, a new poll says. And the share of people who believe pollution caused by humans is causing temperatures to rise has also taken a dip, even as the U.S. and world forums gear up for possible action against climate change.

In a poll of 1,500 adults by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, released Thursday, the number of people saying there is strong scientific evidence that the Earth has gotten warmer over the past few decades is down from 71 percent in April of last year and from 77 percent when Pew started asking the question in 2006. The number of people who see the situation as a serious problem also has declined.

The steepest drop has occurred during the past year, as Congress and the Obama administration have taken steps to control heat-trapping emissions for the first time and international negotiations for a new treaty to slow global warming have been under way. At the same time, there has been mounting scientific evidence of climate change—from melting ice caps to the world's oceans hitting the highest monthly recorded temperatures this summer.

The poll was released a day after 18 scientific organizations wrote Congress to reaffirm the consensus behind global warming. A federal government report Thursday found that global warming is upsetting the Arctic's thermostat.

Only about a third, or 36 percent of the respondents, feel that human activities—such as pollution from power plants, factories and automobiles—are behind a temperature increase. That's down from 47 percent from 2006 through last year's poll.


Fewer believe in global warming
In October 2009, 57 percent of Americans said there is solid evidence that the Earth is warming, down 14 percentage points from April 2008.
Q: Is there solid evidence the Earth is warming?
Yes
No
57%
33
10
Mixed/don't know
2008: 71 percent
36 percent of those who answered yes, said temperatures are rising because of human activity
SOURCE: Pew Research Center
AP

Garbage trucks lead to discovery of dead Fla. girl

ORANGE PARK, Fla. (AP)—After 7-year-old Somer Thompson vanished on her way home from school, investigators tailed nine garbage trucks from her neighborhood to a Georgia landfill nearly 50 miles away, then methodically picked through the trash as each rig spilled its load.

They sorted through 100,000 tons of garbage before their worst fears were realized: Sticking out of the rubbish were a child's lifeless legs.

Sheriff Rick Beseler said the quick discovery of Somer's body on Wednesday, two days after she disappeared, may have saved precious evidence that could lead to her killer.

"Had we not done this tactic, I believe that body would have been buried beneath hundreds of tons of debris, probably would have gone undiscovered forever," he said Thursday.

An autopsy to establish the cause of death was performed Thursday, but authorities would not disclose their findings. At a news conference, Bessler would not say if Somer had been sexually assaulted or answer other questions about the condition of the body.

ACROSS THE NATION

Airline crew overshot Minn. airport by 150 miles

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Two Northwest Airlines pilots failed to make radio contact with ground controllers for more than an hour and overflew their Minneapolis destination by 150 miles before discovering the mistake and turning around. The plane landed safely Wednesday evening, apparently without passengers realizing that anything had been amiss. No one was hurt. The Federal Aviation Administration said the crew told authorities they became distracted during a heated discussion over airline policy and lost track of their location, but federal officials are investigating whether pilot fatigue might also have played a role. The National Transportation Safety Board does not yet know if the crew fell asleep, spokesman Keith Holloway said, calling that idea "speculative."

F-16 jettisons bombs at Hill AFB; no injuries

HILL AIR FORCE BASE, Utah (AP)—An F-16 pilot jettisoned two 500-pound bombs and two fuel tanks before making an emergency landing at Hill Air Force Base on Thursday, officials said. No injuries were reported after the incident at the base about 30 miles north of Salt Lake City. Col. Scott J. Zobrist said it appeared one bomb detonated and destroyed an empty tin shack on base in an uninhabited area. Hill spokesman Rick Essary said Thursday night that explosive ordnance experts at the base were assessing the best method to recover a second bomb that did not explode.

Calif. court allows state to ban nude sunbathing

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—California's highest court is allowing the state to tell sunbathers they can be punished for enjoying public beaches in the buff—even in areas informally designated as "clothing optional." The California Supreme Court on Thursday denied review of a 2008 lower court ruling upholding the right to cite nude beachgoers in Orange County. Officials began to crack down on nudity last year at San Onofre State Beach, where naked sunbathing has gone on for about 20 years, citing complaints about lewd behavior. A group of naturists successfully sued, citing 1979 guidelines for nudity at state beaches. But an appeals court reversed the decision, saying those guidelines weren't adopted with public feedback.

Asia

Election officials deliver Afghan runoff ballots

KABUL (AP)—Election authorities began delivering ballots with U.N. assistance across Afghanistan on Thursday, as hurried preparations for the Nov. 7 runoff in the insurgency-plagued nation's presidential election got under way.

International election monitors called on authorities to avert the widespread fraud that marred the first round of voting in August. Scores of election staff accused of misconduct have been axed, and new personnel need to be hired.

President Hamid Karzai will face former Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah in the runoff. Abdullah announced Wednesday that he was ready to take part, a day after Karzai bowed to intense U.S. pressure and acknowledged he fell short of the 50 percent threshold needed for victory in the Aug. 20 election. U.N.-backed auditors threw out nearly a third of Karzai's votes because of fraud.

In Washington, U.S. officials said a power-sharing arrangement between Karzai and Abdullah to avoid a runoff was still possible, although it would be up to the Afghans.

Organizing the ballot in a little more than two weeks poses a huge challenge. The preparations come amid a growing Taliban insurgency and ahead of mountainous Afghanistan's winter snows, which begin in much of the country around the middle of November.

U.N. planes were providing logistic support to the country's Independent Election Commission, flying ballots and voting kits to provincial capitals, from where they will be delivered by electoral officials to thousands of polling stations by truck, helicopter and donkey, U.N. spokesman Dan McNorton said.

The IEC, the body that runs the elections, is dominated by Karzai supporters. It is under huge pressure to avoid a repeat of the massive fraud that marred the first voting, which discredited the government and threatened to undermine public support for the war in the United States and European countries that provide most of the 100,000 NATO-led troops serving in Afghanistan.

Massive security at Asian summit in Thailand

CHA-AM, Thailand (AP)—Thailand has deployed more than 36,000 military and police to guard a summit of Asian leaders, working to prevent any repeat of the disruptions that shut down another meeting earlier this year, an official said Thursday.

The government is still smarting from the storming of the East Asian Summit in April in the seaside city of Pattaya, where anti-government protesters charged through thin police ranks and forced the evacuation of several leaders by helicopter and boat.

A main protest organizer said no new demonstrations are planned this week.

Leaders of 16 Asian and Pacific nations, including Thai Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, will gather Friday for an annual conference of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Cha-am, a beach resort 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of Bangkok.

About half of the security forces mobilized have thrown a security cordon around this summit venue, and the others will be on alert in the Thai capital, said government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn. He said 20 newly bought bulletproof SUV's will chauffeur leaders to their meetings.

"Security forces have also set up emergency escape routes by land, air and sea," he said. "We don't expect it to be necessary but we want to be ready and to assure leaders that they will be able to meet without distraction."

Security forces have also been empowered to impose curfews and restrict freedom of movement around Cha-am and Bangkok.

Pakistan: Bomber kills 7 near air force complex

ISLAMABAD (AP)—A suicide bomber struck a checkpoint near a major air force complex in northwest Pakistan Friday, killing seven people as the army wages an anti-Taliban offensive along the Afghan border.

The blast was the latest in a wave of militant strikes in Pakistan, attacks that have targeted mostly security institutions and killed more than 170 people in the past three weeks.

The Pakistan Aeronautical Complex at Kamra is the country's major air force maintenance and research hub.

Some foreign military experts have mentioned it as a possible place to keep planes that can carry nuclear warheads, but the army, which does not reveal where its nuclear-related facilities are, strongly denies that the facility is tied to the program in any way.

A lone suicide bomber on a bicycle blew himself at a checkpoint on a road leading to the complex, around 30 miles (50 km) from the capital, Islamabad. Police officer Akbar Abbas blamed the Taliban for the attack.

The seven dead included two security troops, while 13 people were wounded.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Dalai Lama to tour Indian region despite China ire

DHARMSALA, India (AP)—The Dalai Lama is going ahead with a scheduled visit to India's remote northeastern state of Arunachal Pradesh next month, ignoring protests by China, which claims the region as its territory, a spokesman said Thursday. The Tibetan spiritual leader will visit the Tawang Buddhist monastery in the state bordering China on Nov. 8, said Phuptel Samphel, a spokesman of the Tibetan government-in-exile. Beijing on Tuesday protested the upcoming trip. "We are resolutely against Dalai's visit," Foreign Ministry spokesman Ma Zhaoxu told reporters. "We think that has further exposed the anti-China and separatist nature of the Dalai clique."

Strong earthquake strikes Afghanistan and Pakistan

KABUL (AP)—A strong earthquake centered in the towering Hindu Kush mountains shook a wide area of eastern Afghanistan and Pakistan early Friday, swaying buildings in the Afghan and Pakistani capitals. There were no initial reports of damage or casualties from the quake, which struck about 12:21 a.m. Afghan time (1951 GMT, 3:51 p.m. EDT Thursday). However, the temblor was centered in a remote mountain area where communications are poor and reports of casualties take time to reach the capital. The earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 6.2 and was centered in the mountains about 167 miles (268 kilometers) northeast of Kabul and 140 miles (230 kilometers) west of Mingaora, Pakistan, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

In-flight delivery: Malaysian gives birth on plane

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—An official says a Malaysian woman has given premature birth to a boy on a domestic flight, minutes before it landed in Kuala Lumpur. Liew Siaw Hsia gave birth on budget carrier AirAsia's flight from Penang to Kuching on Wednesday. AirAsia spokesman Nazatul Mokhtar said Friday that the flight was diverted to nearby Kuala Lumpur for an emergency landing when Liew started labor pains. A doctor on the flight helped the 31-year-old deliver while the plane was still 2,000 feet (600 meters) in the air in its final approach to land.

World

Zelaya junks offer from Honduras govt

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Ousted President Manuel Zelaya on Thursday rejected a new settlement proposal from Honduras' interim government and said the only way to resolve the country's political standoff is to reinstate him.

Zelaya being returned to power "is our last proposal," said Victor Meza, one of Zelaya's negotiators, who added that his delegation had set a midnight deadline to get an answer.

"If we don't get it, we will consider the dialogue has ended," he said.

Micheletti's delegation answered that they would have an answer by Friday morning, further angering Zelaya's side.

"When we say today, they say tomorrow. When we say tomorrow, they say the day after tomorrow. It's a game of delay," Meza said.

The latest plan proposed by representatives of interim President Roberto Micheletti would permit the two factions to consult whichever branch of government they wished to decide if Zelaya should be restored to office. The coup-installed government didn't explain how they might resolve the dispute.

Negotiations hit an impasse last week after the delegations failed to agree on who should decide whether Zelaya can resume his post and serve out his term, which ends in January.

Micheletti wants the decision to be made by the Supreme Court, the body that initially ordered Zelaya's arrest before his ouster June 28 over his attempt to hold a referendum on changing the constitution. The court, which had ruled the referendum illegal, has said Zelaya should not be allowed to return to office.

AP

Honduras' ousted President Manuel Zelaya gestures at the Brazilian embassy in Tegucigalpa, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.

Victims of human trafficking speak out

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—A father of two from Nepal who thought he was going to America wound up in Iraq, forced to work at a U.S. airbase. A 14-year-old Ugandan girl kidnapped by rebels spent nearly eight years in captivity as a sex slave and human shield. And a young Venezuelan woman lured to New York by the man she loved wound up in a brothel his family was running.

The three victims of human trafficking spoke Thursday at an event organized by U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay who said it was "pressing and urgent" not only to listen to their stories of survival but to get their recommendations on how the international community can help end the growing global scourge.

"In every part of the world, countless individuals are callously exploited for profit," Pillay said. "While trafficking may be a problem related to migration and to transnational crime, it is also—and fundamentally—an attack on the dignity and integrity of the individual. Trafficking involves practices prohibited in every country including slavery, debt, bondage, forced labor and sexual exploitation."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who opened the event, said the global economic crisis "is making the problem worse."

He urged governments to heed his "call to action" and step up efforts to prevent exploitation, protect victims and pursue traffickers whose conviction rates in most countries "are microscopic compared to the scope of the problem."

WORLD BRIEFS

UK far-right leader in controversial TV appearance

LONDON (AP)—The leader of Britain's far-right party outlined his vision in a controversial television debut that critics fear could help his whites-only party ease into the political mainstream. British National Party leader Nick Griffin feuded with fellow panelists and was excoriated by hostile audience members in a tense appearance on the BBC's "Question Time" program Thursday night. "It was hard-going," he told The Associated Press in telephone interview after the show, describing the program as "a bit like a boxing match. I took some punches but I was able to land some punches too." Still, he complained that the audience had been stacked with minorities.

Uruguay: Ex-guerrilla is presidential front-runner

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay (AP)—Jose "Pepe" Mujica, Uruguay's most popular politician going into Sunday's presidential election, is no ordinary front-runner. A former guerrilla and committed socialist who twice escaped from prison during the country's 12-year dictatorship and was convicted of killing a policeman in 1971, Mujica is now a grandfatherly figure who captures imaginations with his blunt, salty language and his commitment to changing the system, this time from within. "In Uruguay, the congenital illness of the left—a lack of unity—can be overcome," Mujica declared as he closed his campaign before a crowd that jammed the capital's main street Wednesday night.

Shelling in Somali capital kills 24, wounds 60

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Mortars fired by Islamic militants slammed into Somalia's airport as the president was boarding a plane Thursday, sparking battles that killed at least 24 people when return fire hit residential areas and a market, officials said. A militant leader vowed to avenge the civilian deaths and threatened retaliatory attacks in two African countries that supply troops to the African Union peacekeeping mission stationed in Mogadishu. The president was unhurt and his plane took off safely, police said, but the deaths of civilians is fueling a growing anger toward African Union peacekeeping forces that are stationed in Mogadishu to help protect the U.N.-backed government.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, October 24, 2009

WHO to fight deadly outbreak in sodden Philippines

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The World Health Organization will send an emergency team to help the Philippines fight a bacterial disease outbreak that has killed at least 148 people and sickened nearly 2,000 in and around the flood-hit capital, officials said.

Outbreaks of leptospirosis, spread by water contaminated with the urine of rats, dogs and other animals, have compounded the problems faced by the Philippines after back-to-back storms since late last month killed more than 900 people and devastated northern regions.

At least 148 have died and 1,963 people have been sickened in the capital, Manila, and outlying suburbs. Infections have also been reported in the nearby provinces of Rizal and Laguna, Health Secretary Francisco Duque said.

Government medical workers have given antibiotics to 1.3 million people as a preventive step, and the government has asked WHO and other foreign health agencies for help.

AP

An aerial picture of houses under floodwaters as residents have resorted to building a foot bridge for easier travel Friday. Oct. 23, 2009 in one of the town in Rizal province, east of Manila, Philippines.

People are infected through exposed cuts and bruises. The disease can cause high fever, headache, sore muscles and vomiting. In extreme cases, it can lead to kidney failure and internal bleeding that can cause death.

Prolonged flooding can cause a "perfect storm of disease," including leptospirosis, dengue fever and cholera, according to Merlin, a medical aid group.

Floodwaters could linger up to Christmas in congested townships along the rim of swollen Laguna de Bay lake near the capital, local officials have said.

Many medical clinics have been swamped, hampering efforts to respond to ailments, Merlin said.

Merlin said one of its health experts visited flooded communities recently and saw children "swimming in contaminated floodwaters, contracting fungal infections."

Peter Cordingley, WHO spokesman for the Western Pacific region, said many communities remain flooded and the number of infections could continue to grow, though number of fresh cases reported in government hospitals has begun to drop as waters recede in some communities.

WHO has assembled an emergency response team "and they'll be here very soon," Cordingley told The Associated Press.

Yet another storm, Typhoon Lupit, is hovering near the country's mountainous north, where army troops and disaster response officials have ferried tons of food aid and rubber boats and started evacuating villagers.

"The potential for crisis is still there," Duque said.

Lupit has remained almost stationary in recent days but may hit the northern province of Cagayan on Friday, government forecaster Nathaniel Cruz said.

The typhoon was swirling 111 miles (180 kilometers) east of Cagayan's Aparri coastal town late Thursday with sustained winds of 99 miles (160 kilometers) per hour and gusts of 121 mph (195 kph), Cruz said.

Naomi Tacuyan Underwood joins 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in US

Former Guam resident and 1998 graduate of Harvest Christian Academy, Naomi Tacuyan Underwood was recently named as one of the 100 Most Influential Filipina Women in the U.S., a recognition given by the Filipina Women's Network to women for their exceptional work in their fields of expertise and for their inspiring leadership and achievements in the U.S. workplace and communities.

ON THE NET

http://www.filipinawomensnetwork.org/fwn100-2009

Naomi was nominated for FWN's recognition as a "Behind the Scenes Leader" by close friends and mentors Charmaine Manansala, the highest ranking Filipina in the Obama Administration, and Vida Benavides, a political strategy consultant with the Dewey Square Group, and by selection committee member Gloria T. Caoile, a widely respected AAPI labor leader.

Underwood

"Her unequaled passion and commitment to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders empowerment through voter mobilization, her leadership qualities in always connecting all members of the AAPI community in rallying on issues that affect them, sets her above the rest. She brings with her values, attributes and incomparable skills to any endeavor," said Caoile.

"As a Filipina Guamanian, I am so proud yet humbled to join the ranks of women whom FWN has honored with this award. I truly stand on the shoulders of giants—many of these Filipina American women have inspired me and mentored me toward a life of public service and advocacy. Guam is never far from my heart, and whether near or far, I hope to continue to use my skills and experiences to benefit Guam and the Philippines, as well as our larger Asian American and Pacific Islander community," said Tacuyan Underwood.

Naomi is currently APIAVote's Deputy Director, managing media and partner communications, and providing media strategy trainings and technical assistance for APIAVote partners. In the 2008 elections, APIAVote was instrumental in garnering unprecedented attention on the growing importance of the AAPI vote, and in empowering and equipping local organizations and coalitions to conduct voter registration, education, and mobilization.

Naomi recently graduated with a Master's in Public Policy degree at the UCLA School of Public Affairs, concentrating on community development and public management. For her degree, Naomi fulfilled a Policy Fellowship with the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement in Honolulu, Hawaii, where she worked on Hawaiian homelands community development issues. At UCLA, she was a Research Associate on a forthcoming Asian American Studies Center project on community-based organizations and their asset building programs.

Naomi has also been active in the legislative push to restore full veterans' benefits to Filipino World War II veterans, and remains committed to ensuring that Filipino veterans are recognized for their service and attain the benefits that were recently passed by Congress. A recent milestone in the fight for equity was Congress' passing of the America Recovery & Reinvestment Act, in which a lump sum benefit for Filipino American veterans was included and is now being distributed by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Naomi has also served on the board for the D.C. chapter of the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, where she worked on a national lobby day for the reauthorization of the Violence Against Woman Act.

Naomi graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Print Journalism and Asian/Pacific/American Studies from New York University in 2002. She graduated with honors from Guam's Harvest Christian Academy, where she received Guam's Congressional Achievement Award upon her graduation in 1998. She currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with her husband Ricardo Hurao Underwood. She is the daughter of Bonifacio and Ruth Tuazon Tacuyan of Tamuning, Guam and the daughter-in-law of UOG president Robert A. Underwood. ***(PR)***

? LABOR FRONT

Other issues on 'umbrella permit'

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Who are those not eligible to get the two-year "umbrella permit"?

A: According to the Department of Labor, this transition conditional permit or "umbrella permit" is not available to persons who hold entry permits other than 240K, such as students, investors, diplomats, journalists, those with Immediate Relatives status, and all the other categories in the CNMI's immigration system. Labor will soon announce the transition program for other categories.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Are those on Labor's overstayers list eligible to get the "umbrella permit'?

A: No. Overstayers, however, are advised to first clear their status with the CNMI Immigration Division before Labor can take any action with respect to them.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Does the "umbrella permit" have an effect on the existing work permits issued to alien workers?

A: According to Labor, the "umbrella permit" will not affect existing permits. The contracts, bonds, health certificates, and other qualifications on which those permits are based will remain in effect.

Labor will take applications for regular 240K permits up until Oct. 30, 2009 for processing in its regular system and the issuance of regular cards.

Labor has stressed that anyone outside the current Labor system or persons holding permits other than 240K has only until Oct. 30, 2009 to file an application to get into the Labor system. Anyone now outside the current Labor system who files by October 30 will get a two-year umbrella permit that will protect them while their application is pending.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What will happen to alien workers' pending Labor cases and appeals?

A: Labor has stated that all existing cases and appeals with Labor will continue on schedule and without interruption. The "umbrella permit" system, however, makes it unnecessary to file Labor cases just to stay in the Commonwealth.

Labor promised that cases will be heard and decided very quickly. Appeals will be decided very quickly. Once a case or appeal is done, if the outcome is a denial, the existing permit will be revoked (as is currently the case) and the "umbrella permit" will also be revoked.

Disclaimer: *Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice.* Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the* Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

Erratic typhoon keeps Philippines on edge

By HRVOJE HRANJSKI
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Living up to its name, Typhoon Lupit—meaning cruel in Filipino—zigzagged around the rain-soaked northern Philippines on Friday, keeping weary residents on edge and forecasters guessing about its next move.

The third successive storm in a month has been hovering for several days near the coast and inland mountains, sending thousands to seek shelter following two back-to-back typhoons that killed nearly 1,000 people, most of them buried in dozens of mudslides.

Lupit's erratic direction baffled forecasters and frustrated the local media who kept predicting its landfall every day. The weather bureau said in a nationally televised briefing Thursday evening that Lupit would ram into northeastern Cagayan province early Friday.

After crawling for the last two days, it barreled on course to hit shore then stalled again Friday, delaying landfall by another day—or two, or three, said chief forecaster Nathaniel Cruz.

The reason is two high-pressure areas that sandwiched Lupit from the South China Sea in the west and the Pacific Ocean in the east, each pulling the storm in its direction, Cruz said.

Typhoons usually slice through the northern Philippines from the Pacific and exit through the South China Sea. The archipelago nation, known as the welcome mat for typhoons, gets about 20 a year during the rainy season from June to December.

Lupit weakened overnight and was packing winds of 75 miles (120 kilometers) per hour and gusts of up to 93 mph (150 kph), Cruz said. It was still a dangerous system that could drench the north of the main island of Luzon on the heels of the worst flooding in the Philippines in 40 years.

Tropical Storm Ketsana on Sept. 26 inundated much of the capital, Manila, and surrounding areas, including the country's largest Lake Laguna, killing 464 people. It was followed by Typhoon Parma, which unleashed mudslides along the Cordillera mountain range Oct. 3, leaving 465 dead.

For the past week, army troops and disaster-relief officials have ferried tons of canned food and clothes and moved rubber boats and helicopters along the coast and the interior.

At least 1,500 residents living along the Cagayan River and its tributaries were moved to high ground, said provincial Gov. Alvaro Antonio. Another 1,000 people left their homes in Appari township, including some 200 after a wave surge collapsed a 65-feet (20-meter) high sea wall in San Antonio village early this week.

Hayden charged for filming sex videos

By DONA PAZZIBUGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Doctor-turned-show business personality Hayden Kho is now facing criminal charges in the Pasig Regional Trial Court in connection with a sex video scandal involving him, actress Katrina Halili and other women whom he secretly filmed during their trysts.

Government prosecutors charged Kho Thursday with violation of Republic Act 9262, or the Anti-Violence Against Women and their Children Act of 2004, for secretly videotaping his tryst with Halili and later causing her "mental distress and anguish" when the video came out in public.

The Department of Justice, however, dropped Halili's complaint against cosmetic doctor to the stars Victoria "Vicki" Belo-Henares, Kho's lover, and Kho's colleagues Erick Johnston Chua, Dr. Mark Herbert "Bistek" Rosario and Princess Marie Velasco.

The DOJ panel of prosecutors said Halili failed to show enough evidence that Belo and the three others were "accessories" for concealing the video and failing to report the crime.

The panel was composed of Senior State Prosecutor Emilie Fe de los Santos as chair, Senior State Prosecutor Rosanne Elepaño-Balauag and State Prosecutor Ma. Lourdes Uy.

The sex videos of Kho and Halili were circulated in the Internet and later in black market video stores and even led to a Senate investigation.

The videos also confirmed showbiz rumors that Kho and Halili were secretly seeing each other even while Kho and Belo were publicly known to be lovers.

In his defense, Kho admitted having recorded some of his trysts with Halili, although he said he had no intention of showing it in public. He added that Hailili knew they were being recorded in three of four videos taken of the trysts.

Halili had told the DOJ panel that the fourth video that made its way to the Internet was taken without her consent and that this was tantamount to crime because she went through "psychological suffering."

PEACEKEEPING FORCE AP

In this Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, photo released by the Philippine Mission to the United Nations, Filipino peacekeepers from the 1st Philippine Battalion to the Golan Heights, march during turnover ceremonies in Camp Ziouani in the Golan Heights, Israel. The Philippines formally assumed the peacekeeping responsibilities of Poland in the southern sector of the United Nations-controlled zone separating Israel and Syria following the Arab-Israeli War in 1974.

Escudero, Legarda said to team up for NPC

By MICHAEL LIM UBAC
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—It's official: the Nationalist People's Coalition is fielding the tandem of Senators Francis Escudero and Loren Legarda in the May 2010 elections.

Pangasinan Rep. Mark Cojuangco, a son of tycoon and NPC chair emeritus Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr., made the confirmation Thursday, a day before Legarda is to formally announce her intention to seek the vice presidency.

Legarda, however, told the Philippine Daily Inquirer that she was making public her political plans for 2010 "alone," suggesting that Escudero would not be around.

She provided no explanation beyond saying that she wanted not the song-and-dance type of political campaigning but a "humanitarian advocacy campaign."

Legarda had disclosed in recent interviews that she was being courted by a number of presidential hopefuls—the last three being Escudero, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro of the ruling Lakas-Kampi-CMD and Sen. Manuel Villar of the Nacionalista Party—to be their running mate.

Still an open book

Governors allied with the administration floated last week the possible tandem of Teodoro and Legarda. But on Thursday the latter dismissed the idea by saying that as an opposition senator, she would "definitely run with the opposition."

On Thursday at the Kapihan sa Senado news forum, Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri said that while Lakas-Kampi-CMD's choice of presidential candidate had "already been settled," that for the No. 2 post was "still an open book."

Zubiri said Teodoro would be formally proclaimed Lakas-Kampi-CMD standard-bearer in a national convention on Nov. 12 tentatively set in Cebu City.

The ruling party's national executive committee selected Teodoro, a nephew of Danding Cojuangco, as its standard-bearer as early as Sept. 16. But that selection still needs confirmation by the entire party, Zubiri said.

He said the party membership should also select Teodoro's running mate.

Valid political party

The party, a merger of the administration parties Lakas-CMD and Kabalikat ng Malayang Pilipino, can now hold a national convention for the purposes of the 2010 polls because the Commission on Elections has upheld its validity.

In so doing, the Comelec threw out the petition filed by Pangasinan Rep. Jose de Venecia Jr., who founded the old Lakas-CMD with then presidential candidate Fidel Ramos in December 1991 for the 1992 elections.

"The Comelec has already handed down an en banc decision that Lakas-Kampi is a valid political party. So that's good news—a welcome development for our party. We can move forward and consolidate," Zubiri said.

The national convention will be an occasion for another presidential hopeful and loyal party member, Bayani Fernando, the chair of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, to contest Teodoro's selection.

Danding committed

In an interview with ABS-CBN, Congressman Cojuangco said his father was expected to attend Legarda's declaration on Friday at Rizal Park in Manila.

He said his father was "committed" to support the Escudero-Legarda tandem and the rest of the NPC candidates in the 2010 elections, and belied reports that the tycoon would also back Teodoro, a former member of the NPC.

Union: Firm mistreated teachers from Philippines

By KEVIN McGILL
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A teachers' union is claiming that a California-based firm that recruited teachers from the Philippines to work in Louisiana schools made the educators pay fees of $15,000 or more.

The American Federation of Teachers filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor calling for an investigation. The complaint, dated Tuesday, follows similar ones the union's state affiliate filed last month with Louisiana officials.

The union says California-based Universal Placement International and its president, Lourdes "Lulu" Navarro, collected the fees from teachers they recruited in the Philippines.

The union also alleges the company uses immigration documents to intimidate and coerce teachers. For instance, Universal arranged for one-year-visas, instead of more commonly used three-year visas, and charged the renewal fees to the teachers, not the school systems, AFT said.

Navarro also allegedly insisted on making the living arrangement for teachers, placing them in apartments where they were charged high rentals.

She exerted influence over the teachers by holding on to their immigration documents, thereby controlling their ability to return to the Philippines for holidays or bring their relatives to the U.S. for visits, the complaint alleges.

"It is AFT's position that Universal's acts constitute document servitude and violate federal criminal statutes as well," the complaint letter states.

The AFT also said teachers hired in Caddo and Baton Rouge were not paid commensurate with their experience.

Navarro did not return calls for comment. Her California office referred calls to a Baton Rouge public relations firm, which did not immediately return a call Thursday afternoon.

The unions say more than 300 Filipino teachers currently work in the school systems of Avoyelles, Caddo, East Baton Rouge, Jefferson and Lafourche parishes, the city of Monroe and the special state district that took over most public schools in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.

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Garapan, Saipan

***Bruce L. Mailman** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***Maya B. Kara** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

OFWs warned vs unauthorized calamity fund-raising

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippine embassy in Riyadh has warned against "unauthorized fund-raising activities" by some Filipinos in the Middle East kingdom supposedly for victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng" here.

In a report to the home office, the diplomatic mission in the Saudi Arabian capital said "these individuals and groups are allegedly claiming that the Philippine embassy has authorized them to collect donations for our countrymen."

"The embassy has not authorized any individual or group in Saudi Arabia to undertake solicitations for the victims of typhoons Ondoy and Pepeng in the Philippines," the embassy said in a statement.

It said, however, that those interested in lending their support to typhoon victims may contact the embassy through the following numbers: (01) 482-3559, 480-1918, 482-4254, 482-1802, and 482-1577, or e-mail at filembry@sbm.net.sa.

AP
Two boys stand on a makeshift raft in an area still affected by nearly month long floodwaters Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, in the town of Taytay, east of Manila, Philippines.

Meanwhile, Philippine Ambassador to Washington Willy Gaa has cited the Filipino community in Hawaii for coming to the aid of thousands of Filipinos affected by the two typhoons which hit the country over three weeks ago.

Gaa lauded, among others, the officers and members of the Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawaii for being "dependable partners of Philippine embassies and consulates in carrying out advocacies and civic work in their respective communities."

"Boxes of donations were dropped off by the group at the Philippine consulate (in Honolulu) for shipment to Manila," Gaa noted.

Representing Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo, the envoy was on official visit to Honolulu for the change of command ceremonies at the US Pacific Command headquarters there.

HK issues RP travel alert due to natural calamities

By JERRY E. ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region government has issued what it calls an "outbound travel alert" or OTA, advising its residents to exercise caution when traveling to the Philippines.

In the amber-colored OTA, the Security Bureau of the HKSAR government also asked its residents to "monitor the latest situation" here before firming up their travel plans.

The agency referred to "signs of threat" to foreign visitors here, apparently referring to back-to-back natural calamities that hit the country recently. It did not provide details.

Similar OTAs were also issued to airline passengers bound for Indonesia, Pakistan, Thailand and Turkey.

Indonesia was hit recently by a killer earthquake while Pakistan dealt with terrorist attacks.

Depending on the need, the Security Bureau also issues two other types of OTA – black for "severe threat," advising its residents to avoid all travel to a particular destination, and red for "significant threat," asking residents to adjust their travel plans and avoid non-essential travel to a certain country.

The OTA system aims to "help people better understand the risk or threat to personal safety in traveling to 60 countries [including the Philippines] that are the more popular travel destinations for Hong Kong residents."

"When there are signs of threat in a place that may affect the personal safety of Hong Kong residents, the Security Bureau will assess and consider the need to issue an OTA, taking into account factors, such as the nature, level and duration of the threat," according to the Security Bureau.

According to the agency, Hong Kong residents are "encouraged to make reference to the OTA [if any] before traveling abroad." "It is, however, a personal decision whether a Hong Kong resident chooses to continue the journey and travel abroad," the agency also said.

2 teens cited for heroism

By YOLANDA SOTELO
INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

SAN JACINTO, Pangasinan—When flooding hit this central Pangasinan town last week, two young men using an air mattress helped rescue scores of residents in danger of drowning.

For their efforts, the Philippine National Police handed out recognition awards on Monday to Rhubert Venerayon, 17, and his brother Rhuniel, 16.

Insp. Ryan Manongdo, officer in charge of the town police, also was conferred the Medalya ng Kadakilaan.

All told, more than 130 residents were rescued in three flooded barangays (villages) of San Jacinto.

Rhubert and his brother had just arrived from school in Dagupan City on Oct. 8 when their mother Linda told them a friend had texted her for help.

It was past 3 p.m. on the day the San Roque Dam started to open its gates, spilling water that overflowed rivers and widened flooding from Tropical Storm "Pepeng" (international codename: Parma). When the brothers reached their mother's friend in Magsaysay village, less than a kilometer away, the water was already waist-deep.

"It was good that Ate Gigi had an air mattress which we used to transport her, a 6-month-old baby and a 63-year-old grandmother, to our house," Rhuniel said.

The brothers—sons of a worker in Saudi Arabia—then went on to help other marooned residents. A police team, led by Manongdo, who was also using his own air mattress, saw the teenagers and asked his men to guide them in the grim task that went on until 1 a.m.

"Our mother was very much worried and continuously called us on our mobile phones, but we thought we could help more people. We just turned off our phones so she could not text or call us," Rhubert said.

"We did not have dinner that time, we just picked guava fruits along the way," Manongdo said.

TAKE CHARGE

Documents to keep—and what to throw away

Editor's Note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Q: Our home was flooded during Typhoon Ondoy. Many of our important files and documents got wet—and some may not be recoverable. I realized that I've been storing all my bills and income tax returns for several years now and wondered whether I need all these. What can I throw away? What documents should I keep and for how long? - Marissa

A: Filing important documents is a good habit that must be emulated by everyone. Many documents just have to be held on to for reference, proof of payment, legal purposes, settlement of dispute, and the like. If you have the needed documents on hand, you will be able to save time and effort in procuring a copy from the government office or private company you have dealt with should the need for the document arise. You will also be able to retrieve the necessary proof of payment when there is a dispute in billing with a utility company.

What documents should you keep?

1. Birth certificates, marriage certificates, entry of court judgment of the annulment of marriage and the corresponding court order, adoption papers. Although you will be able to secure copies of these from the National Statistics Office and the relevant courts respectively or other government agencies, it would be good to keep a copy each of these documents for your files. Keep them for life under lock and key.

2. Government IDs. Philhealth, SSS, GSIS, Pag-Ibig cards should be kept with you. File copies of them and store them in your filing cabinet. Likewise, keep also your SSS/GSIS/Philhealth documents which list down your beneficiaries. Keep them for life.

3. Other IDs. Make sure you have photocopies of your driver's license, company ID, student ID, and credit card on file. This will make it easier for you to get a new card should you lose one.

4. Insurance policies and receipts. Keep original and photocopies of your insurance policies, whether they are for life insurance or insurance for cars, house, health, etcetera. For life insurance, keep the policy for life. For non-life insurance, keep current year's insurance papers since these insurance coverages usually have only a one-year term. As for billing statements and receipts, keep them for the duration of the term of the insurance coverage.

5. Income Tax Returns. Some say you have to keep them for three years, others for 10 years so you will have them on hand should you be audited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

6. Billing statements from utility companies and credit card companies. Keep only the current year's bills and file alongside proof of payment.

7. Bank statements. Keep them for one year at least, even for three years if you can.

8. Medical records. For annual physical exam results, keep for a year. For records pertaining to chronic diseases, keep for life. Likewise, keep filed claim forms from health maintenance organizations and health insurance companies alongside receipts.

9. School records. File your transcript, diplomas, certificates, and report cards. Keep copies on file. You may need the transcript for immigration application, job application or for application for further studies. Diplomas and certificates will come in handy when you prepare your resume.

10. Job contracts. Keep for the duration of the job.

11. Payslips. Keep for a year and check the figures against your tax documents from your employer.

12. Deeds of sale. For assets you have sold or bought (ex.: cars, houses, etc.), keep a copy of the deed of sale on file.

13. Land titles and stock certificates. Keep the original in a safety deposit box in the bank. File photocopies at home.

14. Warranty records. Keep for the duration of the warranty.

15. Loan contracts. Keep alongside proofs of payment.

What to throw away

You can get rid of financial documents that are not useful to you anymore. Examples are cancelled checks, bank statements beyond the suggested time frame of 1 to 3 years, billing statements dating over a year, old pay slips, and bank deposit slips and ATM withdrawal slips after you have checked them against your bank statement.

Keep it organized

How best to store important documents? Here are some tips:

1. File each document type in an envelope or folder that is properly labeled.

2. Keep your envelopes or folders sorted alphabetically for easy access.

3. Use a filing cabinet, a regular cabinet, or plastic storage bins to store your files.

4. If you live in a flood-prone or low-lying area, store your files on high shelves.

5. Keep very important documents in a plastic waterproof case (ziplock will do) before storing in an envelope.

6. Periodically go over your files and get rid of documents you can already throw away.

7. Dust your cabinet and files regularly to prevent dust build up and allergies from occurring.

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Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Rufa Mae, a working bride

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Although Rufa Mae Quinto is all set to settle down, she's not keen on quitting the biz.

She's been flashing an engagement ring these past few days, but she insists her future groom isn't pressuring her to stop working.

"He knows I'll get bored," she tells Inquirer Entertainment. "Especially now, when people need laughter more than ever." In times of crisis, she notes, comediennes like her are very much in demand.

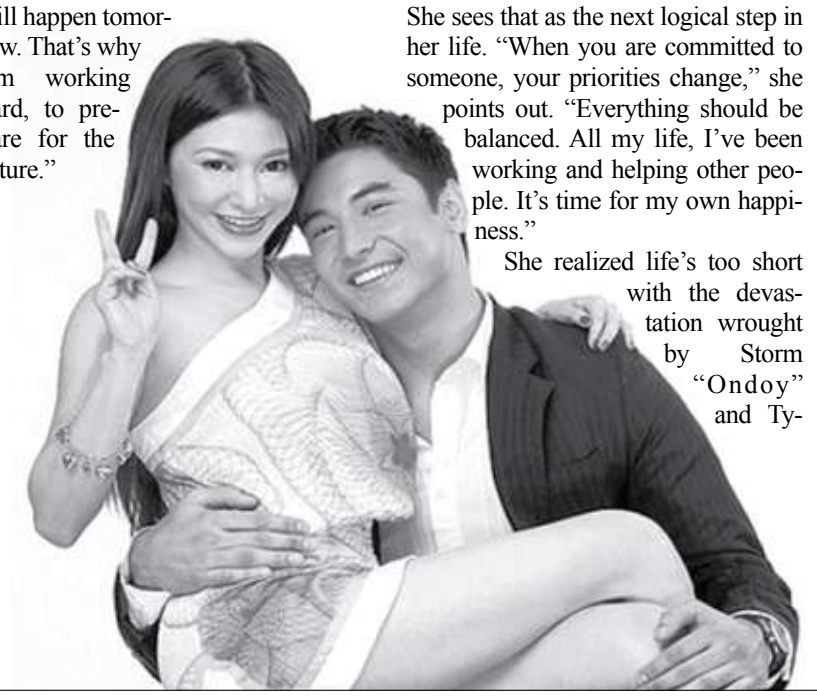
True enough, GMA 7 just offered her the lead role opposite Japanese-Brazilian model Akihiro Sato in the mini-series "SRO Cinemaserye Presents Moshi, Moshi, I Love You."

First serious kiss

In the romantic comedy, she plays obsessed fan to Akihiro's Asianovela actor. "For the first time, I'll have a serious kissing scene," she quips.

Fortunately, her fiancé (whose identity she has yet to make public) isn't the jealous type.

"He's a professional. He understands how focused I am on my career," she says. Altar date is tentatively set next year, she adds. "You never know what will happen tomorrow. That's why I'm working hard, to prepare for the future."



She is also in the cast of "Darna."

When she finally gets hitched, she says, "I'll just lessen my work load." She sees that as the next logical step in her life. "When you are committed to someone, your priorities change," she points out. "Everything should be balanced. All my life, I've been working and helping other people. It's time for my own happiness."

She realized life's too short with the devastation wrought by Storm "Ondoy" and Typhoon "Pepeng."

She relates, "Our taping for 'SRO' was in Pampanga. We didn't even know that other parts of the region were already flooded. Good thing, we got home safely."

She says her boyfriend "is helping a lot of people in Pampanga."

"I want to do my share, but I don't want to depend on him. That's why I'm working so I can also help ... not only my family, but my province-mates in Pampanga as well."

Her own relatives and friends were affected by the calamities, she relates. On her own, she sent show costumes to comedienne K Brosas, whose home also got flooded.

"I was inspired to write a song, 'Through the Rain,' which I'll record soon," Rufa Mae says.

With Akihiro Sato, Rufa Mae's leading man in the new GMA 7 mini-series, "Moshi-Moshi."

A Kapamilya signs up with Viva

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Did Claudine's bolting out of Star Magic really cause a commotion in the Kapamilya network? Were they the last to know that she would move to Viva Films?

Veronique del Rosario-Corpuz, the lady boss of Viva, wants to set the record straight. "As far as Viva is concerned, Claudine has signed a two-picture deal with us," she clarifies. "We were told she doesn't have a contract with Star Cinema and Star Magic. Claud and her mom met with my dad (Boss Vic del Rosario) and Tita June Torrejon and closed the deal. She said she will still do her soap with ABS-CBN."

Every artist needs a change of scenery once in awhile to see if the grass is really greener on the other side.

Did Claudine's bolting out of Star Magic really cause a commotion in the Kapamilya network?

Wacky love team

Make way for the wackiest love team to hit your TV screens, Rufa Mae Quinto and Akihiro Sato, who top-bill GMA 7's SRO Cinemaserye, "Moshi, Moshi, I Love You" Thursdays after "Shining Inheritance."

P-chi has grown fond of her new leading man. "Nakakaaliw siya kasi he speaks more Tagalog than English kahit in Japanese and Brazilian accent. He's willing to learn anything," she says. "Laugh trip kami kahit 24 hours na kaming walang tulog sa taping."

Doesn't her fiancé get jealous of Akihiro? "He trusts me," she says. "He knows that I need to share laughter with the whole wide world."

Being one of P-chi's close friends, I know that sharing everything she's got is something she'll never get tired of doing.

What goes around...

Could it be true that Marian Rivera is getting jealousy attacks because Dingdong Dantes' leading lady in "Stairway To Heaven," Rhian Ramos, is flirting harmlessly with Dong? As a production member says, "Kinikilig si Rhian when she watches Dong shoot his scenes. No malice naman."

Marian may not readily admit this. Wait till the plot thickens and emotions deepen.

Screen rivals

Could it be true that Sunshine Dizon left her back-to-back sinenovela with Iza Calzado because Iza's show, "Kaya Kong Abutin Ang Langit" beat Sunshine's "Tinik Sa Dibdib"?

"I don't wanna get involved in what happened to her," said Iza. "So no comment ako."

Di ba nakaya ni Sunshine abutin ang ratings ni Iza or does she have another tinik sa dibdib which made her bolt out of her show?

Shop and share

Check out Angel Locsin's www.shopandshare.ph and bid for chic items. Proceeds will go to victims of "Ondoy." Angel really ought to have a halo and wings.

Special needs

With the success of indie films that tackle the plight of people with disabilities, like Mike Sandejas' "Dinig Sana Kita" and Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil's "Boses," it is evident that special attention is being given by people from different sectors to persons with "special needs."

Rep. Irwin Tieng of Buhay Partylist has proposed the passing of House Bill 4217, which grants exemptions from securing permission from the copyright owner to reproduce printed materials in a specialized format for the exclusive use of the blind.

Love is blind, so they say. But we should also show love for the blind.

Surprise for RP: Bernal film file

By MARINEL CRUZ
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The Philippines recently received a surprise gift from the Korean Film Archive: a digital data file of the Ishmael Bernal classic, "Manila By Night."

"This is monumental," film archivist Vicky Belarmino of the Media Arts Department of the Cultural Center of the Philippines told the Inquirer. "A total of P1 million is needed to digitize and restore a single movie—the amount covers the scanning of prints, color grading, color correction and transfer to 35mm film, among other things. This gift saved us at least half a million pesos."

The Philippines was this year's "country of honor" at the 14th Pusan International Film Festival, held in Busan from Oct. 8 to 16. A retrospective titled "Mabuhay! Philippine Independent Cinema" featured "Manila By Night" and 13 other Filipino films. Six more were shown in the Currents Section.

Belarmino related: "It is the practice of festival organizers to produce a copy of several featured films, for archival purposes. Cho Young-jung (PIFF programmer for special programs) and I made a short-list for archiving. Out of the 14 titles, three do not have negatives. These are 'Manila By Night,' (Lino Brocka's) 'Insiang' and (Mike de Leon's) 'Itim.'"

More work needed

During the "Philippine Night" held on Oct. 12 at the Haeundae Grand Hotel in Busan, PIFF director Kim Dong-ho handed a sealed metal box to Film Development Council of the Philippines chairperson Rolando Atienza and Philippine Ambassador to Korea Luis Cruz. The box contained the hard disc drive and a number of high-definition tapes of "Manila By Night."

"The PIFF said it will share with us its digital files of 'Insiang' and 'Itim.' We just need to provide the raw materials (hard disc drives and HD tapes)," said Belarmino. "Ruby Tiong Tan, owner of the rights to 'Manila By Night,' said the copy shown at the PIFF was just an HD copy, not yet fully restored. There's still much work to be done."

Belarmino said this is where the newly formed National Film Archives program of the FDCP comes in. The Ishmael Bernal film is one of the 50 titles that the NFAP has picked for its digitization and restoration project.

"This is a significant first step towards our goal to digitize, restore and preserve important Filipino films that are part of our cinematic legacy," said Nes Jardin, NFAP film selection committee chair. "It will allow us to enhance the quality of the print, for viewing and educational purposes. We are grateful to the PIFF for making this possible."

'Baler' wins Famas Best Picture

By Marinel Cruz
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"Baler," a film about a band of Spanish soldiers who battled Filipino forces for 337 days in Aurora province, was proclaimed Best Picture at the Filipino Academy of Movie Arts and Sciences (Famas) awards held Sunday night at the Pagcor Grand Theater in Parañaque City.

The film also bagged trophies for Best Cinematography for Lee Meily and Best Story for Roy Iglesias.

However, it was Ed Palmos' "Ay Ayeng"—a story of two friends who help educate a group of indigenous people in the Mountain Province—which brought home most of the acting awards.

Heart Evangelista won as Best Actress for her role as an Ifugao teacher, beating veteran actresses Sharon Cuneta ("Caregiver"), Judy Ann Santos ("Ploning") and Dawn Zulueta ("Magkaibigan").

"Ay Ayeng," adapted from the novel "Maestra Ester" by Abdon Noviza, also took the Best Director award for Palmos, as well as the Best Child Actor and Actress trophies for Dominico Soriano and Jessica Mae Flores, respectively.

Allen Dizon was chosen Best Actor, edging out Aga Muhlach ("When Love Begins"), Jericho Rosales ("Baler"), and Richard Gutierrez ("For the First Time"). Dizon copped the award for his performance in the Joven Tan film "Paupahan," about three intertwining stories set in a slum beside a cemetery.

Veteran actor and TV host German Moreno brought home his second Best Supporting Actor award, also for "Paupahan." Earlier he won a similar trophy from the Philippine Movie Press Club (PMPC), organizer of the annual Star Awards show. Snooky Serna was adjudged Best Supporting Actress, again for "Paupahan."

"Ngayon, Bukas at Kailanman," composed by Louie Ocampo and performed by Sarah Geronimo for "Baler," won for Best Theme Song.

The award for Best Screenplay went to Dennis Evangelista for "Paupahan," while the Best Musical Score honor went to Jessie Lasaten ("Ploning").

"As it turned out, competition had been stiff between 'Ay Ayeng' and 'Baler,'" observed Famas president Eloy Padua. "We are thankful to all those who supported Sunday's awards show, which was well-attended, compared to the previous years." The Famas Awards is one of the four major film honors in the country. It has been handed out by a group of Palanca Award-winning writers and entertainment columnists since 1952.

Maharlika – Opinyon

Flood

My thoughts rampage like a flood.

My mother always made it a point not to rent a place in Manila that was home to floods. She had known floods before, and stout of heart as she was, she dreaded them like the Plague.

One flooding in particular she could not forget. That was the one wrought by Typhoon "Trix" on Naga City. It drove us out of the tiny place we were renting there to a neighbor's house, a thing that devastated more my father's pride, which was plentiful, than our belongings, which were sparse. I recall Raul Roco, too, talking about it. They too had to move to higher ground when the floodwaters tumbled onto the reclaimed land they had pitched their house on.

I was 6 years old at the time, and my only vivid recollection of it was huddling in a big room—everything to me then was big that exceeded the dimensions of our place—on the second floor of a big house. The room was boarded up, and only the light of a flickering candle illuminated us as we listened in hushed silence to the howling of the winds, which seemed to be swirling all around us. It was my first religious experience, giving me to see, as no Mass or rosary had, what it meant to stand, or cringe, in the presence of something awesome. Our ancestors who lived in caves must have felt that way too.

That scene must have been indelibly imprinted on my mother's mind, as all trauma is, so that even when her mind went toward the end of her days it clung to it like glue. Every time I'd go after visiting her, she'd warn me about the storm outside.

But as I was saying, my mother refused outright to rent a place that in her estimation, which she had developed an expertise for, would be overrun by floodwaters. A thing that exasperated us who weren't averse to settling for convenience, and cheapness. It was a thing however we became grateful for when rains fell on this spot of earth in July and August of 1972.

The public officials who say now this is the worst flooding of Metro Manila they have experienced are either too young (they were still toddlers then) or too old (they have become forgetful) to remember July and August 1972. That was the time rain fell on Luzon continuously for close to two months, a cataclysm of such Biblical proportions—the religious counted 40 days and 40 nights—it sparked all sorts of novenas, supplications to the Sto. Niño, and processions (whenever the rains paused to make them possible; Imelda led one) to appease angry heaven. It submerged all of Central Luzon and turned Greater Manila as it was called then into Venice, minus the gondolas and lovers trilling to romantic songs. The only way to traverse Taguig and thereabouts was by banca.

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

That was the worst flooding by far that I have seen. One month after the rains ceased, a greater cataclysm befell the country. Ferdinand Marcos declared martial law. It is good to remember history, if only to avoid repeating it.

All this, of course, will come as cold comfort to those who were sorely ravaged by "Ondoy," a playful name for a hellish visitation. Some of them are friends of mine. Since last Saturday, I've had no end of text messages, such as I could still receive them (the service stopped at some point), I figured from the sheer volume of the traffic apprising me of their plight. The lights went out at our own place and when they came back, cable TV was gone, leaving me only to picture in my mind the extent of the devastation. Thank God for AM radio, it helped put the picture in stark relief, or unrelenting starkness.

The horror stories have appeared on TV and the newspapers, but there's nothing like hearing it from people close to you to drive home the horror. I knew of Candice Lim's plight from her texts that my friend Jo-Ann Maglipon, her boss at Yes!, sent me. She was pleading for anyone who had the means to come to the aid of her neighbors. They themselves had holed up at the third floor of their home at Provident Village in Marikina and had taken in as many neighbors as they could. When the floodwaters rose, their neighbors, some with aged and children, ended up on the roofs of their houses, unable to wade through the strong current. Candice's car disappeared, swept away by the raging waters.

A friend of mine, a musician, lost pretty much everything he had. Next day with the floodwaters still high in Marikina, he swam to retrieve his guitar that had floated outside his house.

You heard things like this, and you shared the sentiments of the angry texters who wondered where government was when you needed it. Next day, Arroyo and Gibo were busy trying to look busy, a thing that failed to impress anyone. A thing indeed that only made Le Cirque even more blasphemous. But I'll leave that for another day.

Huddling on rooftops, hungry and cold and desperate for help—these are things we used to see only in news about India. Or about the countryside, an abstract location "out there" that takes shape and form only when someone we know is put to that pass, such as some friends of mine who still speak with dread of their ordeal when a superstorm visited Albay some years ago.

I wish I could comfort those who lost much in the cataclysm last Saturday by saying that belongings are just belongings—they can always be replaced—only life is precious and one should still feel lucky one has kept it intact. And true enough our hearts should go out first and foremost to the nameless scores who lived at the mercy of the elements and died by the whim of the elements. But that is just a cruel platitude to those who spent a lifetime collecting their sparse belongings, which like a guitar, a saw, a bicycle, constituted the fountain of life, constituted life itself. I can only imagine the sense of loss they must feel.

My commiseration tumbles like a flood.

EDITORIAL

Storm lessons

Let it not be said that we did not learn our lessons from "Ondoy" and "Pepeng"—at least for the short term. The sluggish progress of new typhoon "Ramil" through what meteorologists call the Philippine area of responsibility, and public anxiety over the prospect of Ondoy- or Pepeng-like floods, has allowed both the national government and the local governments in likely-to-be-affected areas to prepare as fully as possible for the coming storm. As fully as possible, but given the limits of our resources.

The fact that Ramil had slowed down, further delaying its expected landfall by a day, carried unwelcome implications. To its credit, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical, and Astronomical Services Administration decided (or has learned) to hazard a guess, despite the lack of the necessary equipment, about the amount of rainfall we can expect. PAGASA chief Prisco Nilo said on Tuesday as much as 300 millimeters of rainfall could be expected in a six-hour stretch—that's about as much as Ondoy at its worst. "From the looks of it, there will be torrential rain from Ramil. And we already have antecedent conditions with Pepeng saturating the earth earlier, especially in the Cordillera region," Nilo said. The forecast: Expect flash floods and landslides.

This is useful and necessary guesswork, precisely because conventional wisdom now holds that it was the amount of rainfall Ondoy brought, not the force or velocity of its winds, that caused the great flood in Metro Manila and surrounding provinces.

We hope this extra information helped residents in low-lying areas, or in villages on hillsides or mountain slopes, to heed the appeal of local governments for preemptive evacuation. In Cagayan province, we understand, residents from seven riverside towns and eight coastal towns took advantage of Tuesday's good weather to relocate to evacuation centers.

These and similar measures tell us that we—both public sector and private—are learning the right, short-term lessons from Ondoy and Pepeng. This is no mean feat, considering that many parts of Luzon are still recovering from the trauma of a weather-borne catastrophe that claimed over 850 lives, flooded the homes of an estimated 7 million people, destroyed almost P30 billion worth of property and forced hundreds of thousands of Filipinos to flee.

At a time like this, we are reminded, yet again, that Filipinos do have a gift for surviving by improvising.

But the real challenge comes after typhoon season—when the call is not for improvisation but reconstruction. Indeed, the same challenge applies to the relief infrastructure that has helped hundreds of thousands of victims, manned by volunteers and funded by many anonymous donors, which civil society can set up almost immediately after a crisis. Shouldn't this, too, be institutionalized?

The hardest lessons are the lasting ones.

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Globalization in the Philippines 400 years ago

Domingo Siazon, former Foreign Secretary and current Philippine ambassador to Japan, welcomed me to Tokyo with a hearty "Bienvenido!" Caught by surprise, I replied in English. He repeated the greeting and I responded in Filipino, prompting him to say, "I did my research and know you had 12 units of Spanish in college. My generation had 24 units!"

The ambassador was practicing for an academic exchange commemorating the 400th anniversary of the rescue of the crew and passengers of the galleon San Francisco that originated in the Philippines and was shipwrecked in Onjuku, a town 120 kilometers east of Tokyo. Of its 373 passengers and crew, 317 were saved by Japanese fishermen, including Don Rodrigo de Vivero who was returning to Acapulco after completing his term in Manila as Spanish governor-general of the Philippines. This event is taken as the beginning of the relations between Japan and Mexico.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Siazon had arranged for the participation of two Filipino historians in a Tokyo seminar celebrating the "Onjuku 400" anniversary. My inadequate 12 units of college Spanish came in handy because our textbook was built around the travels of an American named Ana West. With 24 units, I would have completed all the lessons in the book, but we only had 12 covering a third of the textbook and never arrived in Spain. Thus, I learned about: Mexico, the Parque de Chapultepec, the Zocalo, and Avenida de la Reforma.

Too bad our teachers did not point out words of Mexican origin in our everyday language that we all thought were Spanish. For example, the Spanish "caballo" spelled and pronounced by Filipinos as "kabayo" actually comes from the Mexican "cabaio." The wonderful weed cannabis, also from the Spanish "caballo," and is presumed to be a Spanish word when it is Mexican. When two Filipinos have the same name, they address each other as tocayo or tocaya not realizing the term came from the Aztec "tocaitl."

There are other words in our language borrowed from Mexico: palengke, tiangge, cassava, zacate, tamales, chili and even mariguana. Perhaps a Mexican lexicographer can tell us of Philippine words in their language because there is an old family in Oaxaca whose surname is "Maganda." Mexico exports mangoes to the United States known as "mangas de Manila."

We celebrated our own Ano de Amistad Filipino-Mexicano in November 1964 to mark the 400th anniversary of the expedicion maritima Mexico-Filipinas headed by Miguel Lopez de Legazpi, founder of Spanish Cebu and Manila, and the Augustinian friar Andres de Urdaneta, the pilot of the expedition who made possible the tornaviaje or return route used during the galleon trade between Mexico and Filipinas that lasted 250 years. From 1565 to 1815, trade between Manila and Acapulco left an imprint in the cultural life of the Philippines that was so deeply ingrained that 21st-century Filipinos do not realize what is Mexican in their midst especially in our language.

On Oct. 8, 2009, the Philippines celebrated the first "Dia del Galeon" established through the efforts of Sen. Edgardo J. Angara, who introduced legislation establishing the annual commemoration of Philippine-Spanish Friendship Day. This year, Angara expanded Philippine-Spanish friendship to include the other Spanish-speaking countries with diplomatic missions in Manila. Naturally, the first partner in this endeavor is the Embassy of Mexico and it is providential that the new ambassador and his deputy are historians. Dia del Galeon will hopefully focus our attention on the long relationship with Mexico and provide context for the Manila visit of the president of Mexico scheduled this November. The last visit of a Mexican president to the Philippines was by Adolfo Lopez Mateos in 1962, during the term of President Diosdado Macapagal.

From 1962 to 1964, a series of cultural exchanges between Mexico and the Philippines was implemented to celebrate Ano de Amistad Filipinas-Mexico resulting in three Mexican landmarks in Manila: Avenida Mexico, the monument to the Mexican hero of liberation Padre Miguel Hidalgo on Bonifacio Drive fronting the Port Area, and the monument commemorating the Legazpi-Urdaneta expedition by the Pasig near the Bureau of Immigration.

Unfortunately, not much has been done since in terms of historical research. As a matter of fact, microfilm copies of historical documents on the Philippines from the National Archives of Mexico where presented as a gift to the then Records Management and Archive Office, but these were not fully utilized and deteriorated in storage.

On the bright side was the people-to-people exchange resulting from the Philippines-Mexico Joint Commission on Culture 2005-2008, specifically the visit of a group of Mexican historians to Manila and a reciprocal visit of Filipino historians to Mexico. While most of the participants were familiar old faces, like Cristina Barron and Benito Legarda, the involvement of younger scholars was expected to revive interest in our shared past.

History becomes relevant to our time when we realize that globalization is not new. We had it in the Galleon Trade between Mexico and the Philippines four centuries ago.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu.

Samu't Sari

'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

No excuse is good enough for missing your birthday! A very happy belated birthday to Nat Angeles, left, shown here with friend Richard Asuncion. Warm, friendly, loving and kind… you are indeed a true Libra in every way! Take care always and we love you! Greetings come from Ricky, Resalie, Obet, Jammie and Chloe.

THE FEDS

Five CNMI lawmakers pose for a group photo with nine visiting officials of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection led by Assistant Commissioner for Field Operations Thomas S. Winkowski after their meeting in the House chamber on Capital Hill Thursday morning. The CBP officials said they are poised to control CNMI borders by Nov. 28 as required by the federalization law.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

COCONUT FESTIVAL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Students gather around as Northern Marianas College Rota Instructional Site program coordinator Martin Mendiola explains the many beneficial uses of coconut at the first-ever CNMI Coconut Festival, which was held recently on Rota. NMC and the Rota Health Center teamed up to build a hut that they name Sagua' Hinemlo', which means "channel of good health."

WEEKEND REUNION

The CNMI Chapter of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter recently graduated 19 new couples from the Fall Weekend, which took place Oct. 16-18, 2009. The presenting team consisted of Jess and Anicia Sonoda, Fr. Ryan Jimenez, Don and Jeanette Boltz and Vince and Hilma Castro with Bishop Tomas A. Camacho greeting the new couples at the start and end of the Encounter. The Marriange Encounter community held a weekend reunion yesterday, Oct. 23, at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Seaside Hall.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to John Mario "Mare." Hope you enjoy your special day, with prayers for many more to come. May God bless you! Greetings come from your family and friends.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

MEDICAL MISSION

The Pentecostal Missionary Church of Christ 4th Watch, Saipan chapter held a successful medical mission on Oct. 18, 2009, where 118 people received free services such as blood pressure check-up, blood sugar tests, eye screening, physical therapy, hair cut, health care packages giveaway, and prayer and counseling. The remaining cash donation worth $215 and some healthcare packages will be sent this Sunday, Oct. 25, 2009 to the typhoon victims in Marikina City, the Philippines, through the Dalaw Kalinga Foundation.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

RADIO-THON FOR SAMOA

A man walks past a banner for the CNMI Tsunami Relief Drive for Samoa yesterday afternoon. A group of volunteers will hold a radio-thon and feature live bands and cultural dance performances on Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

GREEN MEADOW'S STARS

The K-2 PGFC Team from Green Meadow School pose for a souvenir picture soon after participating in the latest edition of the Primary Grade Forensic Conference, held Oct. 10, 2009, at the Dandan Elementary School.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

SENATORIAL BETS

The eight Saipan senatorial candidates pose for a group photo after a debate sponsored by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce Wednesday night in the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. From left, Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), businessman Paul Camacho, former Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo, former Labor deputy secretary Cinta M. Kaipat, Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Taotao Tano president Greg Cruz, and Senate President Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan).

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

YoungStyle

Former President Jimmy Carter helps build homes

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Jimmy Carter, who was president from 1977 to 1981, has spent many years working closely with a charity called Habitat for Humanity. It brings together groups of volunteers to build houses for families who don't have a clean, safe, affordable place to live. Every year, Carter and his wife, Rosalynn, spend one week building Habitat houses for poor families in countries around the world. The couple has helped build at least 25 houses.

Carter, 85, promotes human rights and supports the poor worldwide through his own charity, the Carter Center, as well. In 2002 he won the Nobel Peace Prize for his lifetime of work helping the less fortunate and encouraging peace internationally. (President Barack Obama was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, too, this month.)

But in the foreword to a new kids' book about Habitat for Humanity, "If I Had a Hammer," Carter says that some of the happiest, most fulfilling moments of his life have been spent building Habitat houses. He spoke with KidsPost about Habitat and the importance of helping others.

Q: What has made building houses for Habitat so special?

A: I saw it as a way to break down the very dense barriers between rich people, like us, who have almost everything, and poor people, who have nothing. It's very hard to cross that barrier — to actually know someone who is in need, and second, to know how you can help them.

JIMMY CARTER FACT

Former U.S. president Jimmy Carter rarely uses his real name: James Earl Carter Jr. ***(The Washington Post)***

Q: What's it like to be on a Habitat building project?

A: Just working side by side (with the people for whom the house is being built) is so good. We learned very quickly that those people who we might automatically assume to be somewhat inferior, we find are just as intelligent, just as hardworking and their family values are just as good as mine. They just haven't had the same economic success.

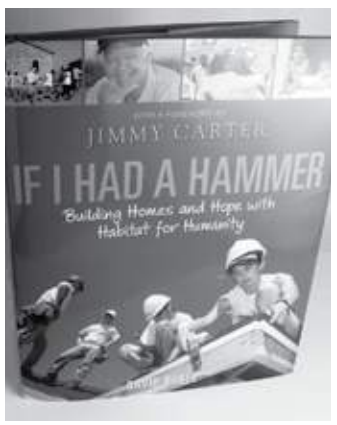
Q: Is there one experience that stands out?

A: In the Philippines, the home on which we worked — the woman who moved into it had three children. They had been living in an abandoned tank (a filthy space) about as large as the desk in front of me now. To move into a house was a transforming experience psychologically and physically. It gave them hope that the future could be even better.

Q: How does it affect the children to have a new home?

A: In Oregon, a family with children who were looked upon as slow learners, (once they moved into) a new Habitat house, the kids became outstanding students. It was a matter of learning they had a place in society.

Q: You have to be 16 to work on a Habitat building site. Can younger children help?



THE WASHINGTON POST

In the foreword to a new book about Habitat for Humanity, "If I Had a Hammer," former president Jimmy Carter says that some of the happiest, most fulfilling moments of his life have been spent building Habitat houses. He spoke with KidsPost about Habitat and the importance of helping others.

A: Sometimes if I get a letter from a grammar school teacher, I'll send them a list of building materials with prices so that a school or classroom can give enough money to pay for one element within the house.

Q: What was your life like as a child?

A: I didn't have any white playmates—all my neighbors were African-American kids. We wrestled, we went in the fields, we went swimming together. I was living in Archery, Georgia, a rural community. It was during the Great Depression and ... the people that had any kind of house and a yard, and access to wood to burn in the fireplace, and the ability to hunt and fish, had an exalted life. ... I have nothing but fond memories.

THE WASHINGTON POST

Jamal Brown, 16, of Washington, in the tack room at Barrie School in Silver Spring, Md., where he competes on the varsity riding team. This week he is a youth ambassador at the Washington International Horse Show, among the best shows in the country.

D.C. teen nurtures lifelong passion for horses

By MARGARET WEBB PRESSLER
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

If you go: Washington International Horse Show

Washington International Horse Show: Through Sunday at Verizon Center in downtown Washington

Daily competitions are from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; evening events start at 6:30 or 7, depending on the day.

Kids 12 and younger get in free before 5 p.m.

Best Bet: Washington's World of the Horse, featuring demonstrations of many types of competition, is Sunday. ***(The Washington Post)***

WASHINGTON—Jamal Brown can't remember a time when he didn't love horses. His younger brother likes football—and that's his father's sport, too. But Jamal, 16, loves horseback riding as much as ever and is planning for an athletic and business career around horses.

Now in 10th grade at the Barrie School in Silver Spring, Md., and on the varsity riding team there, Jamal's goal is to compete in a grand prix show, which is the top level of horse competitions nationwide. He plans to study equestrian business in college so that he can run a horse breeding and training facility someday.

"I'm in it for the rest of my life," he says, relaxing in a community room at Barrie.

That kind of passion is what attracted the organizers of the Washington International Horse Show, among the best shows in the country, which runs through Sunday at the Verizon Center. Jamal was asked to be the show's first youth ambassador, and he has worked closely with the event's planners to come up with ideas to promote the show and get young people involved. He will give tours to groups of kids, attend show events all week as a youth representative and ride in the program Sunday. The school is giving him the week off from classes, though he will have to keep up with his schoolwork.

After years of attending the Washington horse show as a fan, Jamal is most excited about meeting the star performers, such as Georgina Bloomberg, one of the top U.S. competitive riders. "I don't want to embarrass myself," he says, "but I'm really excited to meet them."

Jamal lives in Washington with his parents and brother and leaves the house at 6:50 every morning to take the subway and a school shuttle bus to Barrie, which has horses on campus. Besides riding, Jamal's favorite subject is humanities, and he especially enjoys history. But math? No, thanks.

He rides at Barrie every Friday afternoon and tries to find time to ride once a week at another stable in Maryland. Like any sport, practice is essential. There are many kinds of equestrian competition, and Jamal's specialty is jumping. It takes a lot of strength, discipline, courage and communication with the horse to safely and accurately get around an obstacle course that can include tight turns and tall fences approached at high speeds.

As a young boy, Jamal tried sports such as basketball, but he didn't think he was very good at them, and he liked doing a sport the other kids didn't. "Not a lot of guys ride, so it was something to talk about," he says.

All equestrian competition requires a deep connection between rider and horse, which is the part Jamal might like best. "I don't know what it is. I just feel connected to them," he says.

By FRED BOWEN
Special to The Washington Post

Bowen is an author of sports novels for kids, including his new books, "Touchdown Trouble" *and* "Soccer Team Upset."

Wizards need more than magic to improve

The Washington Wizards have a chance to be the most improved team in the National Basketball Association (NBA) when the season starts next week.

Why? First, the Wizards can't get much worse than the awful 19 wins and 63 losses they had last season. Plus, the team has made some smart moves during the off-season, including adding Minnesota Timberwolves guards Randy Foye and Mike Miller to the roster.

Washington also brought in a new head coach. Flip Saunders has led winning teams in Minnesota and Detroit.

But if the Wizards are going to improve enough to compete with Eastern Conference powerhouses such as the Cleveland Cavaliers, Boston Celtics and Orlando Magic, a few things have to go right. Let's take a look:

PRO BASKETBALL FACT

One of the most common injuries in basketball is a sprained ankle. ***(The Washington Post)***

Stay Healthy: Injuries ruined the Wizards' chances last season. Three starters—guards Gilbert Arenas and DeShawn Stevenson and center Brendan Haywood—missed big chunks of the season. The Wizards have more depth with Foye and Miller, but they can't afford to lose key players to injuries again this season. So far, the Wizards' luck has not been very good. Forward Antawn Jamison, the team's leading scorer and rebounder, hurt his shoulder during the preseason. They need Jamison to be 100 percent.

Gilbert Arenas: The Wizards' all-star guard played just 15 of the 164 regular-season games in the past two years because of knee problems. Before he got hurt, Agent Zero, as Arenas is called, was one of the highest-scoring players in the NBA. Arenas does not have to be the unstoppable scoring machine from a few years back to help the Wizards. But he does have to give the Wizards steady scoring and playmaking at the point guard position for the team to improve.

Andray Blatche and Nick Young: Many people say that Blatche, a versatile 6-foot-11 forward, and Young, a 6-6 shooting guard, have loads of potential. But potential is not enough in the super-competitive NBA.

Defense: Unlike in football, where there is an offensive team and a defensive team, basketball players have to play both. One of the Wizards' biggest problems is that some of their best offensive players—Arenas and Jamison—are not very good at playing defense. Coach Saunders has to get all the Wizards to commit to playing hard on defense during every game. If they do, the Wizards will see a big improvement.

RIDDLE CARD

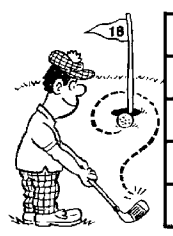
1. How do locomotives hear?
2. What nut is like a sneeze?
3. What fish is definitely out of place?
4. What can be right but never wrong?
5. Why is the letter "N" like a pig?

Answers: 1. Through their engineers (engine-ears). 2. Cashew nut. 3. A perch in a bird's cage. 4. An angle. 5. Because it makes "a sty" ... "nasty."

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

A PAR FIVE PUZZLE!



PUTT
PUNT
PUNK
SUNK
SINK

Solve these five word puzzles and win the Junior Whirl Word Open! In this type of puzzle, you are given a word that must be changed into another word in a series of moves. During each move, you must change one letter in the previous word so as to form a new word. In our example, we changed PUTT to SINK in four moves. See if you can change the following five words in four moves.

1. HAND to PICK
2. JUTE to MILL
3. SLIP to KNOT
4. MILE to POST
5. SLOB to NEAT

Answers:
1. HAND, HANK, HACK, PACK, PICK.
2. JUTE, MUTE, MITE, MILE, MILL.
3. SLIP, SNIP, SNIT, KNIT, KNOT.
4. MILE, PILE, POLE, POSE, POST.
5. SLOB, SLOT, SLAT, SEAT, NEAT.

A PERFECT PUZZLERS' BREAKFAST! Can you solve this AlphaMath puzzle before our order comes? You must replace the letters in the menu with the digits 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9 so that you have a correct addition problem. The same letters get the same digits.

Our Answer: H=8, A=7, M=3, N=9, D=2, E=1, G=6, S=5. (873 + 792 = 1665)

FIND THE SEVEN WORDS PUZZLE! In the word square at the right, we've removed six of the letters to spell out the word "DECODE." See if you can replace these letters in the squares so that you will have four 3-letter words across and three 4-letter words down. The time limit is 60 seconds.

	A	M
A		
D		N
	D	

DECODE

Answers: (Across): Dam, ace, den, odd. (Down): Dado, aced, mend.

Illustrated by David Coulson

Can you afford a new pet?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I'm interested in adopting a puppy from our local shelter. However, my friends are giving me conflicting advice. Some say shelter pets are popular because they're cheaper than purebreds—whatever that means. Another friend said that pets can be costly and that her puppy has already racked up thousands of dollars in vet bills. What's your advice?—Tabitha in Little Rock

DEAR TABITHA: I'd say continue going with your gut on this decision. You're wisely weighing the advice your friends have given, now add a bit of research to the process.

The financial aspect of pet ownership is well worth considering. Your friend encountered unplanned medical bills. While certainly no one wants her pet to get sick, it's important to acknowledge that it can happen. Pets have plenty of regular medical expenses as well, including annual checkups, vaccinations and tags.

A recent column by Kristen Sullivan at FiLife.com (http://www.filife.com/stories/love-loot-surprise-its-a-boy-can-you-afford-him) discusses some of the costs pet owners should plan for before adopting a pet. How much will the initial adoption cost? (Most shelters charge a fee at adoption that generally includes payment for spaying/neutering, among other things.) How much will you pay for food, equipment, training and toys? Figuring these expenses into the household budget is important.

A "reality check" that goes beyond the dollars-and-cents reckoning also is important: Can you meet all of a pet's needs? The ASPCA has a list of 10 questions to ask yourself before adopting (http://www.aspca.org/adoption/adoption-tips/questions-to-ask-before-adopting.html).

If, after taking the above steps and doing your homework as well as possible, you decide not to adopt a pet, don't beat yourself up. You're concerned about providing a great home for a dog—and you have to be financially and emotionally prepared to do so. I wish you the best, no matter what your decision.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Ogden Nash, well-loved American author of humorous poetry, who made the following sage observation: "The door of a bigoted mind opens outwards so that the only result of the pressure of facts upon it is to close it more snugly."

■ The modern dishwasher was invented all the way back in 1889, and it's no surprise that it was a woman, not a man, who came up with the labor-saving device. It is interesting to note, however, that it wasn't her own labor Josephine Cochrane was saving when she invented the device; Mrs. Cochrane had servants to do the washing up. In fact, she wasn't interested in saving labor at all—she was simply tired of the servants chipping the fine china.

■ You had more taste buds before you were born than you do now—more than you've had at any time in your life, in fact.

■ The beloved children's book "Green Eggs and Ham" would not exist if it hadn't been for a bet. Bennett Cerf, Dr. Seuss' editor, bet the author $50 that he couldn't write a book using no more than 50 different words. Dr. Seuss used precisely 50 words, collecting the $50 and creating a classic at the same time.

■ You might be surprised to learn that about 29 percent of people who go to beauty spas are men.

■ If your family is like most American households, you waste approximately $600 every year by throwing away unspoiled food.

■ The world's tallest tree can be found in Redwood National Park, in California. The tree, known as "Hyperion," stands nearly 380 feet tall.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "I never did give them hell. I just told the truth, and they thought it was hell."—Harry S. Truman

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MAGIC MAZE ● CHARACTERS FROM THOMAS AND FRIENDS

E L J G E B Y W Y U Y R N E H
R P N C A T H E R I N E K I G
D B E D W A R D R S N D Z X V
S Q O D O U G L A S E L M K I
G E C A O Y W M H U J U S Q P
Y N N O D R O G D L S O Y J H
F C E C A H T Y R X S B L V U
S Q R P T O N S O M I E I K J
H F L E B A R A L C M H M E C
B Z Y Y P X V U T U R T E A Q
P O M L K R E T S U B I H G J

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bulstrode	Douglas	James	The Boulder
Buster	Emily	Lord Harry	Thomas
Catherine	Gordon	Miss Jenny	Toby
Clarabel	Henry	Percy	

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GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	x		÷		18
–		x		–	
	+		x		14
x		÷		x	
	x		–		13
15		12		14	

1 3 4 5 6 6 7 8 9

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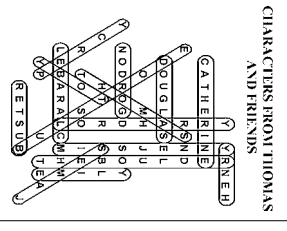
MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

9	x	6	÷	3	18
–		x		–	
6	+	8	x	1	14
x		÷		4	13
5	x	4	–	7	13
15		12		14	

Make fall haystack cookies with kids

We were sitting around the dinner table recently commenting about fall and how much our family loves this time of year. When it came to specifics, we blurted out favorites like football, jumping in raked leaves, crispy apples at the farmer's market and cooler evenings sleeping under comforters with the window still open. Then a friend who grew up in Indiana chimed in, "Don't forget haystacks!"

If you are a city dweller, you probably don't think of haystacks when images of fall come to mind. But take a leisurely autumn drive into the countryside, and you'll no doubt see haystacks of all shapes and sizes lined up in the farm fields, mile after mile.

Haystacks have been in fields and part of our culture for ages. Young children recite the charming rhyme about "Little Boy Blue" who fell fast asleep under a haystack; French impressionist Claude Monet painted a memorable series of haystacks; and there's the old expression "It's like finding a needle in a haystack" that comes up in moments of frustration. Now you and your kids can make your own Haystack Cookies in your kitchen in three easy steps to celebrate this harvest season.

Here are the ingredients for Haystack Cookies:

1/4 cup light corn syrup
1/4 cup honey
1/2 cup peanut butter
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1 cup cornflakes cereal
1 cup chow mein noodles
1/2 cup chocolate chips

Here's the fun:

1. Let the kids measure and stir together the corn syrup, honey and peanut butter in a medium saucepan. An adult should take over and bring the mixture to a boil. Remove from heat and stir in vanilla.

2. Meanwhile, kids can measure and mix the cornflakes, chow mein noodles and chocolate chips in a large mixing bowl. An adult should pour the melted peanut butter mixture over the dry ingredients. Stir lightly until completely coated.

3. When cool to the touch, let kids drop the mixture by heaping tablespoons onto a foil-covered baking sheet. Form each one into a haystack shape. Cool in refrigerator until firm. Makes approximately 24 haystacks, depending on the size you create.

Note: These cookies freeze well.

"The grandkids are coming!" tip: Take a walk with your grandchild and look upward for nests tucked in bare tree branches. When you return, prepare this recipe, replacing the cornflakes with more chow mein noodles, for a total of 2 cups. Shape the cookies into bird's nests instead of haystacks.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

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Life & Style

Lil Wayne pleads to attempted gun possession

NEW YORK (AP)—In the midst of a career surge that has made him one of rap's biggest stars, Lil Wayne is bracing for a year behind bars after pleading guilty Thursday in a two-year-old gun case.

A glum Lil Wayne said little as he admitted illegally having a loaded gun on his tour bus in 2007, moving to end a case that had churned along as he collected Grammys and gold records. He's expected to get a year in jail at his sentencing, set for February.

The plea, which came as he boasted the country's No. 1 pop song, makes Lil Wayne the latest in a long line of rappers to face incarceration after topping the charts.

Arguably rap's most popular artist, Lil Wayne somberly answered his judge's questions with "yes, sir" and "no, sir" as he pleaded guilty to a felony charge of attempted criminal possession of a weapon.

He acknowledged he had a loaded .40-caliber semiautomatic gun when the bus was stopped shortly after a Manhattan concert on July 22, 2007. His lawyer had previously disputed the gun was the rapper's, in part by questioning the reliability of a highly sensitive DNA test that prosecutors said tied him to the weapon.

AP

In this Jan. 30, 2009 file photo, rapper Lil Wayne arrives on the red carpet for the ESPN Next Big Weekend Super Bowl XLIII party in Tampa, Fla.

State Supreme Court Justice Charles Solomon warned Lil Wayne that he wouldn't be able later to withdraw the plea, as some people try to do.

"I'm not one of those people," said the rapper, who sat in court in jeans and a hooded parka. He pulled up the hood and didn't speak as he left the courthouse with members of his entourage, who piled into four black SUVs. He's due back in court Dec. 15 before his sentencing date, which has yet to be set.

He had faced at least 3 1/2 years in prison if convicted of the original weapons-possession charges against him.

Lil Wayne, 27, also is scheduled for trial in Arizona in March on felony drug possession and weapons charges stemming from a January 2008 arrest at a U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint. He has pleaded not guilty in that case.

In March, an Atlanta judge dismissed felony drug charges against Lil Wayne. His lawyer had said the rapper wasn't staying in the hotel room where police said the drugs were found in 2006.

Over the past two years, Lil Wayne—born Dwayne Carter—has emerged as the best-selling figure in music. His "Tha Carter III" topped all album sales in 2008 with 2.8 million copies sold off of such hits as the No. 1 smash "Lollipop." His Grammys include last year's best rap solo performance award, for "A Milli."

A rapper since he was a teen, Lil Wayne exploded in popularity thanks to his voluminous output on the mixtape circuit and collaborations with other artists. He currently has the No. 1 song in the country with Jay Sean, "Down."

While his lyrics sometimes are laced with violence, he's more known for clever wordplay and risque material.

The relationship between chronicling crime and living it has long been an issue in rap. Some of the genre's big names—including Tupac Shakur, Lil' Kim, Beanie Sigel, Shyne, Mystikal and C-Murder—have done a few months to several years behind bars for crimes committed after they became famous.

T.I., another of rap's top sellers, reported to a federal prison in May for his conviction on weapons charges. He's expected to serve a year and a day.

While some rappers haven't regained their chart status after prison or jail, Shakur became even more popular, and T.I. remains popular on the radio.

Police pulled over Lil Wayne's tour bus shortly after it left a concert venue, saying they had seen and smelled marijuana smoke wafting out the door when it was parked.

After ordering roughly a dozen or so other people off the bus, police found a freshly showered Lil Wayne in his boxer shorts in a bedroom at the back of the bus. Police said that as an officer approached, the rapper tossed away a Louis Vuitton bag containing the gun.

The Miami-based rapper wasn't licensed to carry a gun in New York, prosecutors said.

Pharmacist says he warned against drugs for Smith

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A pharmacist testified Thursday that he refused to provide drugs prescribed to Anna Nicole Smith, telling a doctor the prescriptions would be "pharmaceutical suicide" for the former Playboy model.

Ira Freeman said a fax requesting several drugs came from Dr. Sandeep Kapoor on behalf of Smith's psychiatrist, Dr. Khristina Eroshevich, five months before Smith died of an accidental drug overdose of at least nine prescription drugs in a Florida hotel in early 2007.

"I called Dr. Kapoor," Freeman said. "I said, 'This is crazy. This is pharmaceutical suicide. The dosages are way out of whack.' I said I wouldn't fill it and no pharmacy in California would."

The hearing, which is in its second week, will determine whether Kapoor, Eroshevich and Smith's boyfriend-lawyer Howard K. Stern will stand trial for conspiring to illegally provide Smith with controlled substances.

All three have pleaded not guilty. They are not charged in the death of Smith.

Freeman said he had been dealing with Smith for years through his pharmacy, usually issuing prescriptions to her under the name of Michelle Chase, a pseudonym used to protect her privacy.

She always sent other people, including Stern, to pick up the prescriptions, Freeman said.

NPR's 'Wait, Wait' quiz show plays Carnegie Hall

NEW YORK (AP)—"Wait, Wait ... Don't Tell Me!" took the long road to Carnegie Hall.

NPR's weekly satirical news quiz show has been on the air for 11 years and has toured the country since 2005. Along with cities such as Los Angeles and Boston, it's been to Wichita, Kan.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; and Beloit, Wis.

"You know the old saying, if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere?" says "Wait, Wait" host Peter Sagal, strolling down Broadway in a tuxedo, ready for the show. "Well, we basically made it everywhere else first."

In its 11 years on the air, "Wait, Wait" has grown into one of the most popular radio programs on the dial. Based in Chicago, where it regularly tapes from the Chase Auditorium, it draws nearly 3 million listeners a week. That doesn't count the 1 million who listen by podcast, one of the most downloaded on iTunes.

AP

In this publicity image released by NPR, Carl Kasell, left, and Peter Sagal from the NPR satirical news quiz show, "Wait, Wait…Don't Tell Me!" are shown.

The New York episode, taped Thursday and to air Saturday and Sunday, is a pinnacle for "Wait, Wait." Despite its old-fashionedness, "Wait, Wait" has become a weekly destination ("appointment radio," this week's guest, NBC anchorman Brian Williams, has called it) for wit.

Along with the venerable radio newsman Carl Kasell as scorekeeper, Sagal leads a revolving panel of humorists and writers. They include Paula Poundstone, Mo Rocca, P.J. O'Rourke, Roy Blount Jr., Adam Felber, Roxanne Roberts and Charlie Pierce.

In games like "Listener Limerick Challenge" and "Who's Carl This Time?" the group fires improvised jokes and puns at the week's strangest news while callers pray their answers succeed in winning the show's prize: Kasell's voice on their answering machine.

E-mails: US discussed nabbing Polanski in Austria

GENEVA (AP)—American prosecutors closely monitored Roman Polanski in Austria and considered seeking his arrest there days before the director's apprehension in Switzerland, documents obtained by The Associated Press show.

Los Angeles officials decided against filing a warrant for Polanski's arrest with the Austrian government after questioning how accommodating it would be to an extradition request. They also were concerned about the limited time available before Polanski left the country, according to e-mails obtained by the AP under U.S. public records request.

The e-mail exchange Sept. 23

AP

This is a Jan. 15, 2009 file photo, of film director Roman Polanski in Montrouge, France.

any Austrian extraditions so I don't know how 'friendly' they would be to extradition on such a case," Diana Carbajal, a Los Angeles deputy district attorney, wrote in an e-mail.

She wrote that Polanski had checked out of an Austrian hotel that morning and was "on the move" ahead of his scheduled appearance at the Zurich Film Festival on Sept. 26. With the little time available and questions over extradition, she asked whether it was better to "maintain our position to extradite from Switzerland."

Lael Rubin, another deputy district attorney, answered: "Yes."

Polanski had been in Austria as early as Sept. 16, when he attended the opening night of his cult musical "Dance of the Vampires" in Vienna.

Latest Coen brothers movie at Rome fest

ROME (AP)—The Coen brothers aren't sure whether their latest movie is a comedy or a tragedy—that is for the viewers to figure out.

"We don't even think about it in those terms," Ethan Coen said Thursday, as he and his brother Joel were presenting "A Serious Man" at the Rome Film Festival.

The Coen brothers have a history of making quirky, genre-defying movies, from the acclaimed surreal Hollywood tale "Barton Fink" to the darkly funny "Fargo."

Their latest release is a look back at their own roots. The film follows physics professor Larry Gopnik (Michael Stuhlbarg) as his life in a predominately Jewish suburb of Minneapolis unravels, both at home and professionally.

"Once you get past a certain point you're just thinking how to be true to the story," Ethan Coen said, "what seems appropriate for the story as opposed to what will make people laugh or whether people will take it as a tragedy or a comedy."

"I'm kind of pleased that there are different reactions in terms of people laughing or not," he said. "What they sort of make of it is up to them."

The setting—a Midwest Jewish community in the 1960s—is familiar to the Coen brothers, who most recently had directed the Oscar-winning crime thriller "No Country for Old Men" and the spy comedy "Burn After Reading."

But the movie is not an autobiography. Events are made up, the filmmakers say, and the characters are combinations of people they knew growing up in Minnesota.

The Coen brothers also said they were pleasantly surprised at the positive reaction of Jews when "A Serious Man" opened in the United States earlier this month.

"They're very sensitive (as) to how they're portrayed in the media," Joel Coen said, referring especially to American Jews. There was concern "that some of those sensitivities may be rubbed the wrong way."

'Twilight' saga's vampires on red carpet in Rome

ROME (AP)—The Volturi have invaded the red carpet.

The actors playing the vampire "royal class" in the highly anticipated second installment of the "Twilight" series were greeted Friday by a crowd of screaming fans at the Rome Film Festival, where scenes from "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" were screened.

Actors Cameron Bright, Charlie Bewley and Jamie Campbell Bower met fans and signed autographs as they walked the red carpet after a team of flag weavers from Volterra, a Tuscan village that serves as the fictitious home of the Volturi clan.

The tale, based on four novels by Stephanie Meyers, is a modern-day love story between a sensitive schoolgirl and a century-old vampire and has especially been popular with teen audiences.

AP

From left, actors Charlie Bewley, Jamie Campbell Bower and Cameron Bright arrive on the red carpet for the presentation of the movie "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" at the 4th edition of the Rome Film Festival, in Rome, Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009.

The "New Moon" scenes shown Thursday marked the appearance in the saga of the Volturi, a powerful class of vampires who enforce the rules in the vampire underworld.

The clips shown included an early scene in which the main characters Edward Cullen (played by Robert Pattinson) and Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) tearfully leave each other as he goes away in an effort to protect her life.

"You don't belong to my world, Bella," he tells her.

Other clips show Bella with a man who morphs into a gigantic wolf, and Bella running through Italy to save Edward from the Volturi.

Behind the scenes footage from the film was also screened Thursday, explaining how the Volturi actors took on their sadistic roles.

"Nothing could have prepared me. When we put on the costumes and the red lens, that was a defining moment for me. I felt like a vampire," Campbell Bower, who plays Caius of the Volturi clan, told reporters.

Rock band Bon Jovi announces new world tour

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Rock band Bon Jovi announced plans Thursday for a new world tour that will swing by the new home of the New York Giants and Jets.

The two-year tour begins Feb. 19 in Seattle and includes a May 26 show at New Jersey's new $1.6 billion Meadowlands football stadium, which will be home to the New York Giants and Jets. It will feature 135 shows in 30 countries.

"It's a big world," lead singer Jon Bon Jovi said when asked about the length of the tour. "And we still make house calls."

Bon Jovi and lead guitarist Richie Sambora are New Jersey natives. They said being selected for the first concert at the new stadium holds special meaning for them because they've played Giants Stadium more than eight times and consider it home.

"Jon Bon Jovi is a New Jersey guy," Giants CEO John Mara said.

"He's a legend in New Jersey," Jets owner Robert "Woody" Johnson said.

Bon Jovi said going to a football game at Giants Stadium was a special event for him before the band, which formed in 1983, made it big. The Grammy winner grew up in Sayreville and is a Giants season ticketholder.

"I can't wait until there's a ballgame," Bon Jovi said.

The band announced the tour Thursday at an invitation-only performance for 5,000 fan club contest winners and construction workers in the parking lot of the new stadium.

'To Kill a Mockingbird' actress dies in NC at 74

HIGHLANDS, N.C. (AP)—Actress Collin Wilcox-Paxton, who portrayed the false accuser in the movie classic "To Kill a Mockingbird," died of brain cancer just months after the diagnosis. She was 74.

Her husband, Scott Paxton, confirmed Thursday that she died Oct. 14 in Highlands in the southwest part of the state. No funeral was held. Instead, the family held a service before her death.

"It's pretty special being at your own memorial," said her husband of more than 30 years.

She was diagnosed Aug. 11 with three brain tumors, he said.

The actress played Mayella Ewell in the movie based on Harper Lee's Pulitzer-winning novel. Her role as the young white woman who accuses a black man of beating and raping her in her home was brief but memorable.

She angrily breaks down as actor Gregory Peck, the defense attorney, suggests she lied to avoid being abused by her racist father. The black defendant is convicted anyway and later killed.

In the late 1950s and '60s, she had roles in several Broadway plays, making her debut in 1958 in the family drama "The Day the Money Stopped." While the production was short-lived, The New York Times said she "scatters little sparks of humorous vitality throughout her scenes."

Country singer Justin Moore to become a first-time dad

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Justin Moore is riding high on his first No. 1 song, "Small Town USA." Early next year, he's planning to celebrate another first: a baby daughter.

"Just found out I'm adding to my personal family," he said. "My wife and I are having a little girl in February, so we're really excited about that. I have a feeling that family is just going to get more and more important to me."

Moore, and his wife, Kate, who appears as his love interest in the "Small Town USA" video, plan to name the baby Ella Cole.

At first, though, Moore was hoping for a little boy.

During the sonogram, "I kept saying, 'Are you positive it's a girl? Is it still a girl?'" he said.

But the results were clear. Moore said the technician told him, "Yeah, Justin, shut up, it's a girl."

Now that he's accepted the fact, Moore is preparing for what's to come.

"I'm not excited about killing a 14-year-old boy in a few years for looking at her, but it'll be fun," he said.

Moore grew up in Poyen, Ark., population 300, on 100 acres of land. He gives full credit to his parents and to the town that raised him for his success.

Katherine Jackson picks new lawyer in estate case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A shake-up in Katherine Jackson's legal team left her unrepresented during a hearing Thursday to clarify the power two attorneys have over her pop star son's estate, but it didn't stop the judge from issuing orders upholding those powers and adding new ones.

The new authority given the administrators by Superior Court Judge Mitchell Beckloff included not having to seek permission from the judge to make routine decisions on various administrative matters involving the estate of Michael Jackson.

Earlier Thursday, Katherine Jackson replaced her team of probate lawyers with a new attorney, Adam Streisand.

Attorneys for the estate told Beckloff he would not appear because some of Katherine Jackson's former attorneys had not formally relinquished their role in the case.

Streisand said after the hearing he will need to review the case before commenting on Beckloff's ruling or his strategy for the case.

Katherine Jackson is one of the main beneficiaries of her son's estate and has already been named permanent guardian of his three children, who range in ages from 7 to 12.

AP

In this April 20, 2002 file picture, Michael Jackson performs "Dangerous" during the taping of the American Bandstand's 50th anniversary show in Pasadena, Calif.

Her former attorneys repeatedly talked about challenging the adequacy of the estate's administrators, attorney John Branca and music executive John McClain. But Beckloff noted none of those objections have been filed, and he was concerned about frequent delays posed by Katherine Jackson's former attorneys.

Parents harm their children when they let them cheat

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: I was raised from an early age that if you play a game, you have to play fair and obey the rules. Those rules were never bent regardless of what the game was or who we played with.

Over the years I have played games with many people, and while I realize it's possible for people to play the same game slightly differently, the rules still applied. What I don't understand is cheating.

A couple I know allow their children to play games with adults and let them cheat. What they're doing is obvious, and their parents even joke about it. I no longer enjoy playing with this family, but I don't know what to do or say. I have tried to subtly discourage and stop the deceptions, but I don't want to seem like a sore loser. Any suggestions?

PLAYS BY THE RULES, URBANA, OHIO

DEAR PLAYS BY THE RULES: Yes. Do not play games with the family if the children are involved. It's not about being a sore loser; it's about not being a chump. By allowing their children to ignore the "rules," these parents are sending the message that rules don't apply to them. Because the children cheat when they play with you, it's safe to assume that they think it's acceptable to do it with other kids. And when their contemporaries realize what's going on, who do you think won't be allowed to join their games -- or anything else? Look at it this way: From little cheaters, big cheaters grow.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law has just informed me that she doesn't think it is as important for her daughters to attend college as it is her sons.

My mother-in-law recently made a crack about my finances because she knows I'm paying off my student loans for two degrees.

My father-in-law can't understand what "all the fuss is about" now that my oldest daughter is preparing for college.

Abby, I have friends in their 30s and 40s who, for one reason or another, are single women supporting themselves. Even some who have degrees are struggling, but they are able to own their own homes because they are able to earn decent salaries.

What should I say when my mother-in-law and sister-in-law put me down for higher learning? Neither of them went to college or has ever worked. They would be on welfare if they didn't have their husbands' income. By the way, I'm not having any problem paying back my student loans, and my husband is proud of my accomplishments.

EDUCATED IN TENNESSEE

DEAR EDUCATED: Your mother-in-law and sister-in-law are misguided. They do not understand the financial realities that exist for women today because they have never been exposed to them. Nothing that you can say to them will change their mind-set.

So rather than respond to their naive comments, take every opportunity to encourage your nieces to pursue their educations so they can live independent lives. And pray that your father-in-law and brother-in-law leave their wives well-provided-for should tragedy strike, because otherwise they could wind up on your doorstep.

■■■

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

■■■

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

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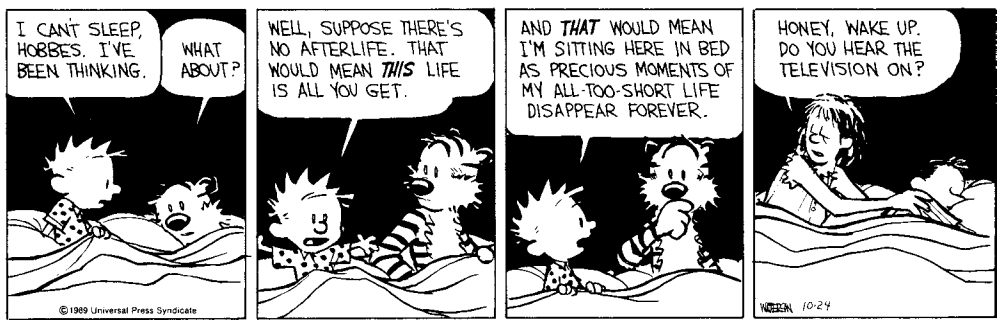
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


I CAN'T SLEEP, HOBBES. I'VE BEEN THINKING.
WHAT ABOUT?
WELL, SUPPOSE THERE'S NO AFTERLIFE. THAT WOULD MEAN THIS LIFE IS ALL YOU GET.
AND THAT WOULD MEAN I'M SITTING HERE IN BED AS PRECIOUS MOMENTS OF MY ALL-TOO-SHORT LIFE DISAPPEAR FOREVER.
HONEY, WAKE UP. DO YOU HEAR THE TELEVISION ON?
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WATTERSON 10-24

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M SURPRISED YOU HAVEN'T CAUGHT MY COLD YET
JIM DAVIS 10-24
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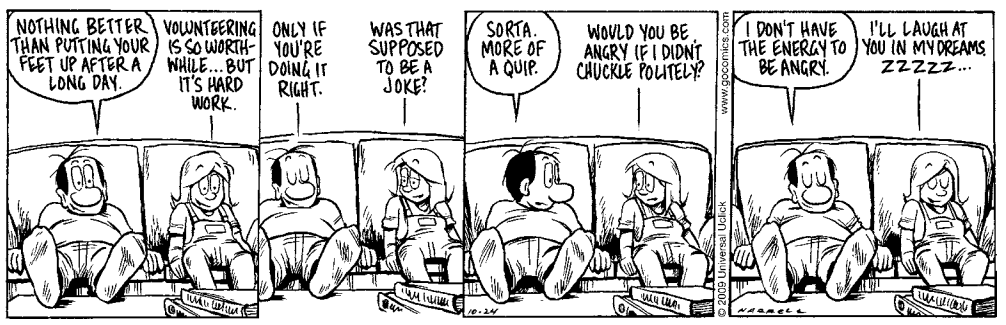
ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?
PARDON?
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


NOTHING BETTER THAN PUTTING YOUR FEET UP AFTER A LONG DAY.
VOLUNTEERING IS SO WORTHWHILE... BUT IT'S HARD WORK.
ONLY IF YOU'RE DOING IT RIGHT.
WAS THAT SUPPOSED TO BE A JOKE?
SORTA. MORE OF A QUIP.
WOULD YOU BE ANGRY IF I DIDN'T CHUCKLE POLITELY?
I DON'T HAVE THE ENERGY TO BE ANGRY.
I'LL LAUGH AT YOU IN MY DREAMS. ZZZZZ...
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www.gocomics.com
10-24

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Comestibles
5 Singer Campbell
9 Toss in
12 Highly rated
13 Gamblers' mecca
14 Island garland
15 Actor Pitt
16 See 1-Across
17 "— Town"
18 Coin aperture
19 Blunder
20 Unsurpassable
21 Conclude
23 "Simpsons" storekeeper
25 Noisy fight
28 Film on metal
32 Quality potato
33 Impales
34 "— Butterfly"
36 Bad odor
37 Cover
38 Listener
39 Do nothing all day
42 Best-selling author Brown
44 Canaanite's deity
48 Joan of —
49 Roster
50 Host
51 "Yecch!"
52 Revolution period
53 Ogler's look
54 Decorate Easter eggs
55 Catch sight of
56 Highway division

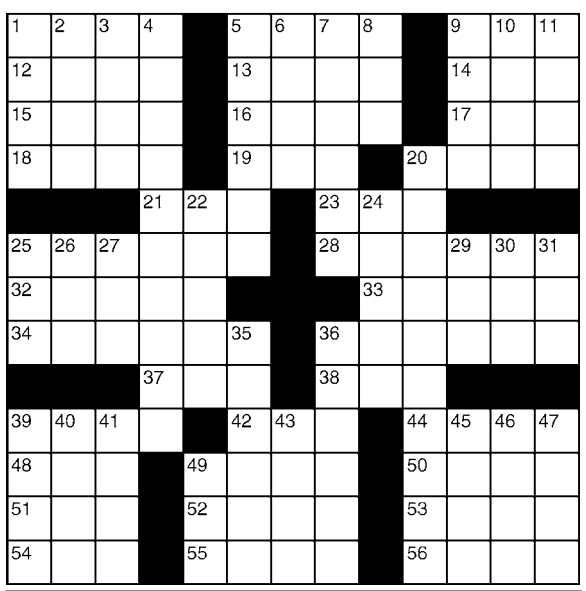
DOWN

1 Spaces
2 Churn up
3 "Do — others ..."
4 Spouse
5 Avaricious
6 Mad king of theater
7 Snare
8 Ph. bk. data
9 Burn soother
10 — ex machina
11 Grime
20 Chubby one
22 Campbell or Judd
24 Trattoria specialty
25 Intention
26 Med. approval agcy.
27 Craze
29 Author Fleming
30 Leno's network
31 Blond shade
35 Vortices
36 Guard
39 Praise to the skies
40 Wild revelry
41 Rue the run
43 Now, on a memo
45 Vicinity
46 "So be it"
47 Muse's strings
49 Caustic solution

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	R	C	■	A	L	E	E	■	C	I	T	E
B	A	H	■	F	I	L	E	■	A	D	A	R
S	H	O	P	T	A	L	K	■	J	E	T	S
■	■	P	I	E	R	■	■	R	O	A	S	T
T	A	S	E	R	■	B	A	A	L	■	■	■
O	N	U	S	■	G	A	S	P	E	D	A	L
O	N	E	■	P	O	S	I	T	■	R	B	I
K	E	Y	C	H	A	I	N	■	P	O	E	T
■	■	■	H	I	T	S	■	D	E	P	T	H
F	E	R	A	L	■	■	P	E	A	K	■	■
O	V	A	L	■	S	T	O	P	S	I	G	N
G	E	N	E	■	A	R	L	O	■	C	E	O
S	N	I	T	■	M	A	L	T	■	K	E	N

Yesterday's answer 10-24



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Monica Arnold, 29; Ben Gillies, 30; Kevin Kline, 62; F. Murray Abraham, 70

Happy Birthday: If something has been bothering you, do whatever you can to ensure your own success. Getting ahead and helping those less fortunate will all bring satisfaction. Don't let the alterations at home take you by surprise. Make the right choices for yourself now and you will expand your interests throughout the upcoming year. Your numbers are 3, 8, 14, 20, 31, 36, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): If there is someone or something that draws you from your past, revisit that place or experience. You will be emotional about matters pertaining to partnerships. As long as you learn from experience, you will not make the same mistakes. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You may feel that you are being forced into a position but, before you get your back up, consider the benefits. You stand to make professional and personal lifestyle gains. Be articulate and what you want is what you will get. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Work on something you enjoy whether it's self-improvement, finishing a job or working on a hobby. Your love life will pick up if you put time aside for romance late in the day. Stick close to home. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Relationships will suffer if you are too possessive. Let everyone do as they please. It's better to spend quality time with family and friends instead of trying to orchestrate every minute of their day. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't get angry by the way things are being done at home. Use your charm to talk others into doing things your way. Don't hire contractors or make costly residential changes until you have done more research. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take on a challenge or do something that will update your look or add to your efficiency. You can take care of an emotional matter that has been bothering you. You will see someone in a different light by the reaction you receive. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Take care of any complaints quickly and be compassionate to the mood swings of the people around you. Refrain from taking anything or anyone for granted if you want to come out a winner. Giving your all emotionally and physically will result in respect and support. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take care of the emotional and personal aspects of your life by conversing with the people from whom you need approval and support. Any resistance you receive will be in the form of protective deception. Read between the lines; information will be withheld. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't get angry or aggressive when it comes to money, donations or debts. It's not worth getting upset over something that cannot be helped. Instead, concentrate on ways to replace, in other ways, whatever you've lost. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Discovering new and innovative ideas, tactics and financial possibilities will lead to a change in the way you view someone you are close to. Don't let someone you love lead you astray or take you for granted. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Someone is playing emotional games with you. Do not let this person or anyone else take advantage of you financially, legally or physically. Love is in the stars but you must proceed with caution. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Change is good and the more you do to update your appearance or include a different lifestyle to the one you already have, the easier it will be to round out what's been missing from your life in the past. Good fortune is heading your way. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are inquisitive, inventive and imaginative. You are a pioneer and a volunteer—forceful, aggressive and a powerful advocate for the underdog.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6							
			1		5	7		6
	5	9	2			3		
	1					2	9	
				5				
	8	4					7	
		6			8	1	4	
7		3	6		1			
							6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/24

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	4	5	2	7	8	6	9	3
3	9	2	4	1	6	5	7	8
7	6	8	3	9	5	2	1	4
2	3	6	7	4	1	8	5	9
4	8	1	5	6	9	3	2	7
5	7	9	8	2	3	4	6	1
9	1	4	6	8	2	7	3	5
6	5	7	1	3	4	9	8	2
8	2	3	9	5	7	1	4	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 10/23

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

HUNAN BEEF **Solution: 8 letters**

R	S	U	O	I	C	I	L	E	D	N	U	O	R	G
A	E	E	S	R	E	S	T	A	U	R	A	N	T	N
G	R	C	R	A	G	U	S	R	E	P	P	E	P	I
E	V	U	I	N	G	R	E	D	I	E	N	T	S	R
N	I	A	N	P	O	(T)	(A)	(E)	(M)	D	I	E	H	O
I	N	S	A	T	E	I	C	S	E	E	A	C	E	V
V	G	D	I	O	K	E	T	R	D	S	O	R	R	A
E	S	E	L	R	S	I	I	A	O	R	U	G	R	L
G	O	P	O	N	R	Z	N	N	N	T	N	F	Y	F
E	N	P	G	Z	E	I	I	S	X	I	Z	L	O	S
T	I	O	N	D	R	N	T	I	T	K	B	A	S	P
A	O	H	O	A	G	A	M	A	T	A	A	M	L	A
B	N	C	M	I	R	Z	E	S	T	L	S	E	O	R
L	S	P	I	C	Y	H	A	M	O	R	A	T	T	C
E	N	G	H	S	A	M	C	H	I	N	E	S	E	S

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 10/24

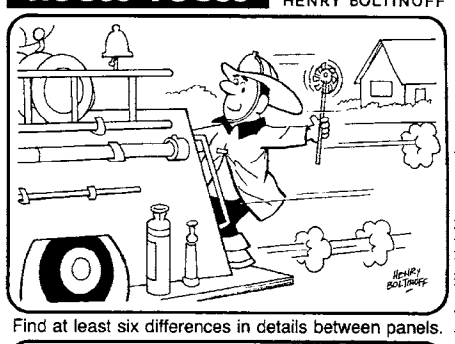
Aroma, Chinese, Chopped, Combination, Cornstarch, Delicious, Flame, Flavoring, Ground, Heating, Ingredients, Marinade, Mash, Meat, Mixture, Mongolian, Onions, Peppers, Pieces, Pork, Recipe, Restaurant, Salt, Sauce, Scraps, Seasoning, Servings, Sherry, Soy, Spicy, Steak, Stir, Sugar, Taste, Tenderized, Torn, Vegetable, Vinegar, Zest

Yesterday's Answer: Flavor

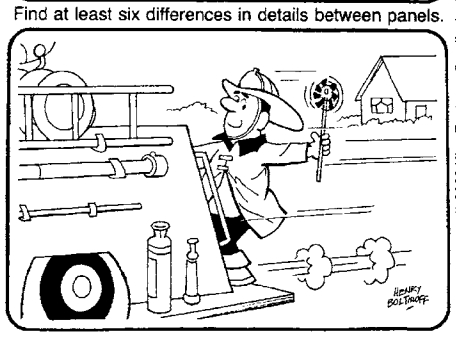
NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Bell is missing. 2. Coat has extra clasp. 3. Window has curtains. 4. Hose is shorter. 5. Puff of smoke is missing. 6. Pinwheel is different.

Wishing Well®

3	6	4	3	7	5	8	3	4	3	2	6	5
R	H	B	E	S	D	B	L	U	A	K	A	O
7	3	7	4	2	3	8	7	2	7	2	3	6
E	T	C	I	E	I	E	U	E	R	P	V	P
7	8	6	8	5	7	4	7	3	5	4	8	7
I	D	P	I	U	T	L	Y	E	B	D	L	I
2	8	2	5	6	5	3	6	7	3	5	7	5
T	I	R	T	Y	S	S	F	S	V	A	Y	R
3	6	7	8	5	6	7	5	7	6	2	3	6
I	R	O	G	E	A	U	R	R	M	Y	S	E
3	2	6	2	4	8	6	7	8	6	5	8	5
I	I	O	N	T	E	F	S	N	M	E	T	M
3	6	4	5	4	5	6	5	6	4	2	5	4
T	I	R	O	U	V	N	E	D	S	G	D	T

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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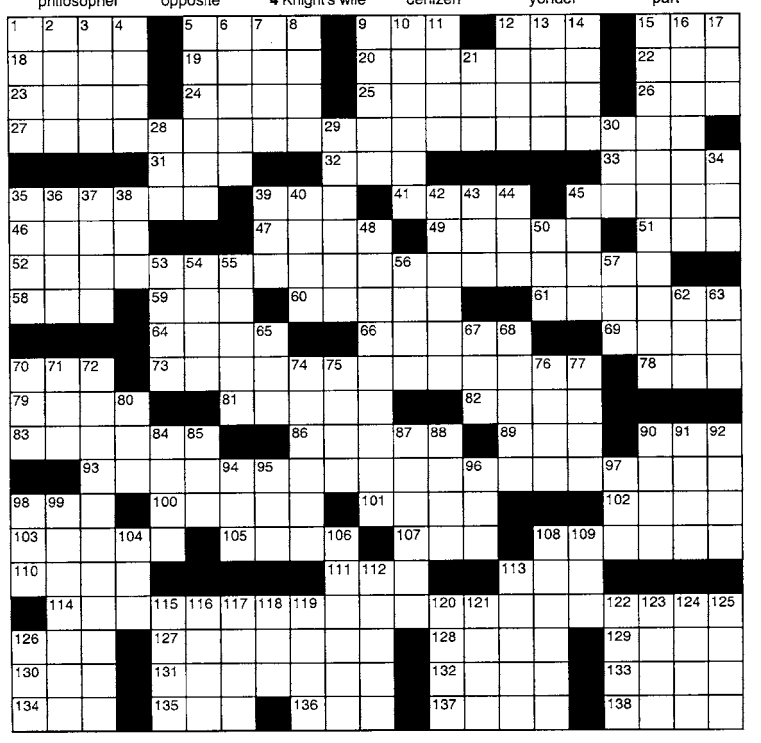
Super Crossword

CAMP JINX

ACROSS
1 Obscene
5 Vino center
9 Hydro-therapy site
12 Advanced deg.
15 "The Screwtape Letters" monogram
18 Concept
19 An Everly brother
20 Shape
22 Chou En- —
23 "The King and I" setting
24 Bakery display
25 Supermodel Warren
26 Pantry pest
27 Camper's comment
31 Munch on a mango
32 Born
33 Tyrant
35 She got an A in literature
39 Slap on
41 Seafood selection
45 81 Across' river
46 — breve
47 Vientiane's nation
49 German philosopher
51 Transmit electron-ically
52 Camper's comment
58 Serling or Steiger
59 Troop grp.
60 "There — atheists in the fox-holes"
61 Way up
64 "Man bites dog," e.g.
66 "You can — horse to . . ."
69 Hardware item
70 '70 Jackson 5 hit
73 Camper's comment
78 "— whiz!"
79 Baby bovine
81 Joan of Arc site
82 Perry's creator
83 Beethoven symphony
86 Delibes opera
89 — de la Cite
90 Mimic
93 Camper's comment
98 Honest name
100 Lucifer
101 Learning method
102 Weft's opposite
103 Remora's host
105 Musical symbol
107 Word form for "equal"
108 Amontillado, e.g.
110 Table d'—
111 — Cruces, NM
113 Cry of satis-faction
114 Camper's comment
126 Herd word
127 Esteemed
128 Geraint's lady
129 Praise pas-sionately
130 Caravan-sary
131 Venezuelan river
132 "Heavens to Betsy!"
133 Congrega-tional comeback
134 Order
135 Clerical abbr.
136 — diem
137 Say it isn't so
138 Ebb

DOWN
1 Actress Virna
2 Touch up the text
3 Disaccus-tom
4 Knight's wife
5 Enter the picture
6 Haberdash-ery buy
7 Row
8 "Casa-blanca" character
9 Tantrum
10 Western bands
11 Against
12 Ms. Falana
13 "To Sir with Love" singer
14 Pull
15 Taxon-omist's job
16 "Evil Ways" group
17 Illuminated
21 Word with take or hang
28 Center of gravity?
29 Like some pools
30 Colorado native
34 Smith or Stout
35 Salon concern
36 Admiral Zumwalt
37 Coasted
38 Highland-er's hat
39 Ginger —
40 "Star Trek" android
42 Dayton denizen
43 Aspin or Baxter
44 — trip
45 Open an envelope
48 Cave man?
50 Pulver's rank: abbr.
53 Paul of "Scarface"
54 Second-hand
55 "It's — Never" ('60 smash)
56 Lollapa-looza
57 Large tub
62 Regret
63 Sault — Marie, MI
65 — -Cat
67 Casino cube
68 Lofty spaces
70 Parker of football
71 Saloon
72 Nearby
74 Louisiana university
75 Tolerate
76 "— Want for Christmas" ('50 tune)
77 Require
80 Fiver
84 Barrel
85 Alias initials
87 Certain Communist
88 Newts
90 Way over yonder
91 Engine sound
92 Discern
94 Catchall abbr.
95 Marchiano or Mineo
96 Rock's — Speed-wagon
97 Be obligated
98 Hibachi residue
99 "— Junction" ('56 film)
104 Actor Stephen
106 Warm lining
108 Inferior
109 Producer Prince
112 Passion
113 Oriental
115 Adventurer Heyerdahl
116 Irritated
117 Part of UCLA
118 Negative prefix
119 Parachute invasion
120 Take into account
121 "Bus Stop" playwright
122 Tie
123 Dalai —
124 Kitchen appliance
125 Passed-on item
126 Pinafore part



Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GEOGRAPHY: How many lakes are in the North American Great Lake chain?
2. ARTS: What was choreographer George Balanchine's native country?
3. RELIGION: What is the formal name of the Quakers?
4. TELEVISION: What high school did Richie Cunningham attend in the sitcom "Happy Days"?
5. MOVIES: What baseball movie introduced the character of "Wild Thing"?
6. LAW: Who is the current chief justice of the U.S. Supreme Court?
7. AD SLOGANS: What kind of candy "melts in your mouth, not in your hands"?
8. ANATOMY: Where is the parietal bone located in the human body?
9. MATH: How many minutes are in a day?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the symbol of the zodiac sign Cancer?

Answers

1. Five (Huron, Ontario, Michigan, Erie and Superior)
2. Russia
3. Religious Society of Friends
4. Jefferson High
5. "Major League" (Pitcher Ricky Vaughn, played by Charlie Sheen)
6. John Roberts
7. M&Ms
8. The skull
9. 1,440 (24 hours x 60 minutes)
10. The Crab

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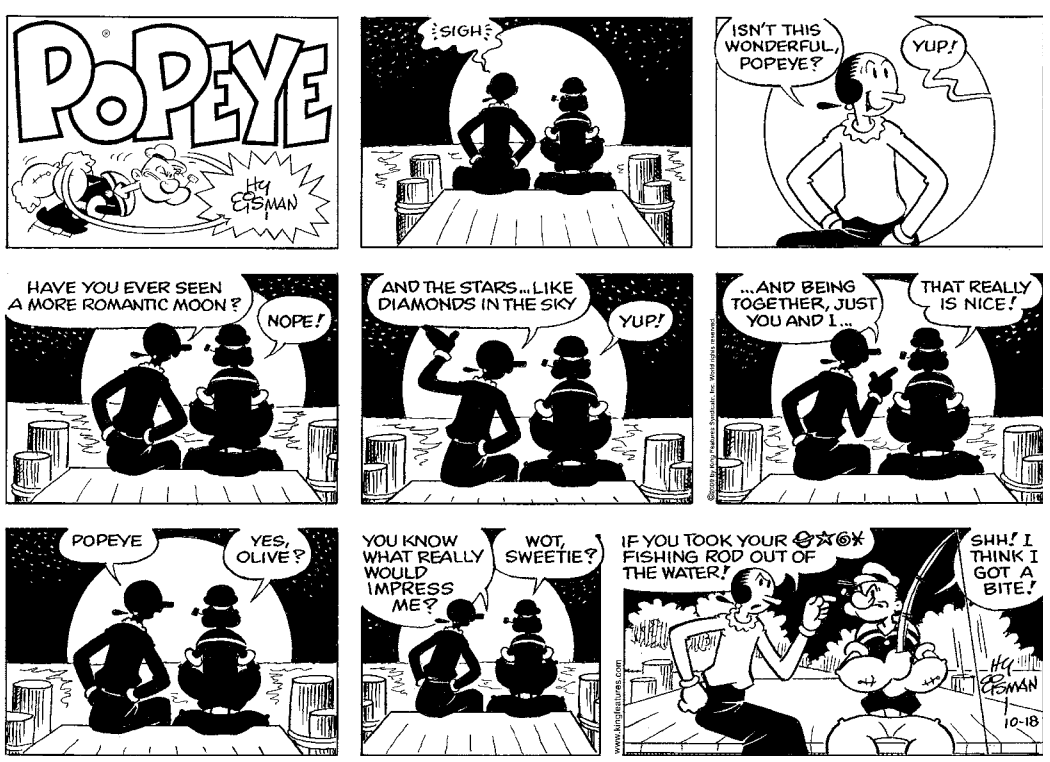
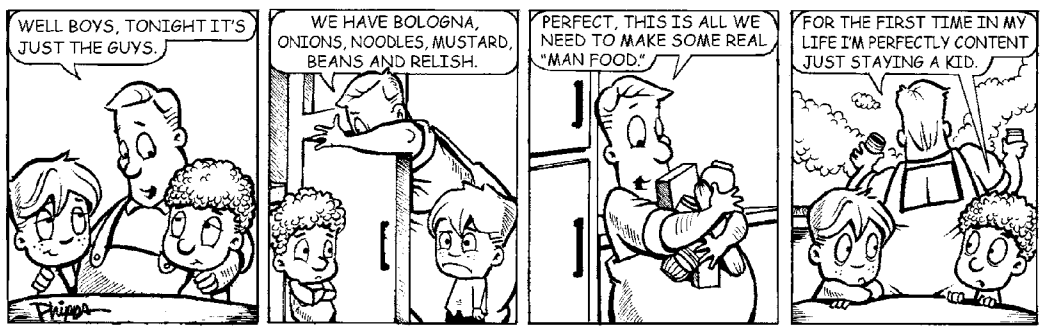
Saturday's Answers



Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps


WELL BOYS, TONIGHT IT'S JUST THE GUYS.
WE HAVE BOLOGNA, ONIONS, NOODLES, MUSTARD, BEANS AND RELISH.
PERFECT, THIS IS ALL WE NEED TO MAKE SOME REAL "MAN FOOD."
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE I'M PERFECTLY CONTENT JUST STAYING A KID.
Phipps

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

YOU CAN CATCH MORE FLIES WITH HONEY THAN VINEGAR!
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH ALL THOSE FLIES AFTER YOU CATCH THEM?
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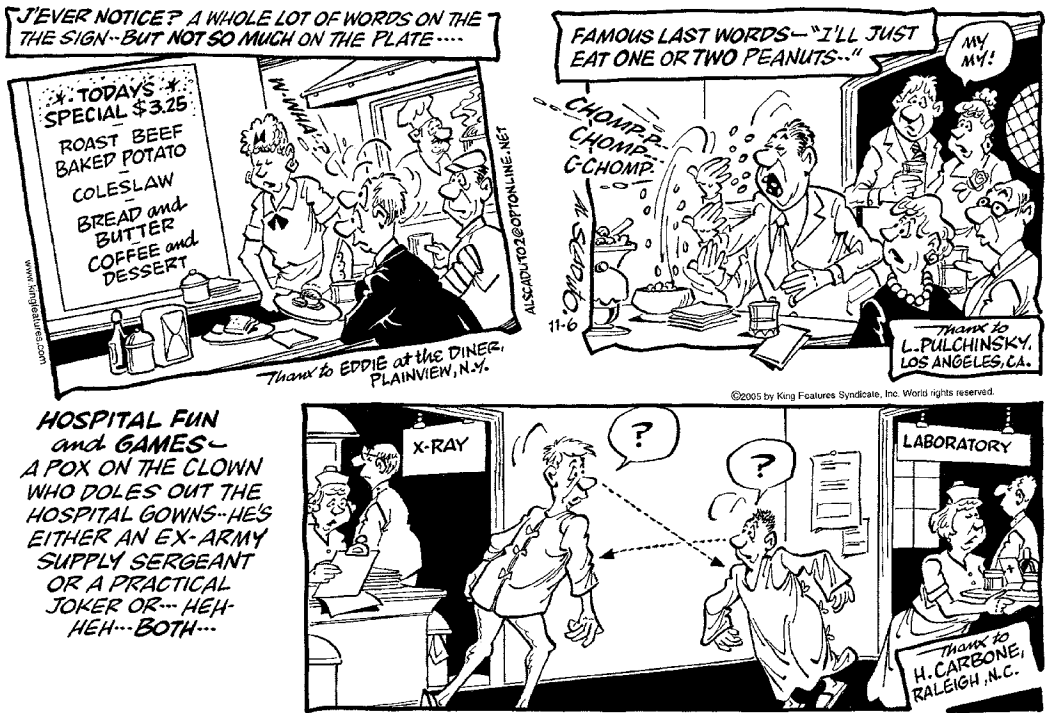
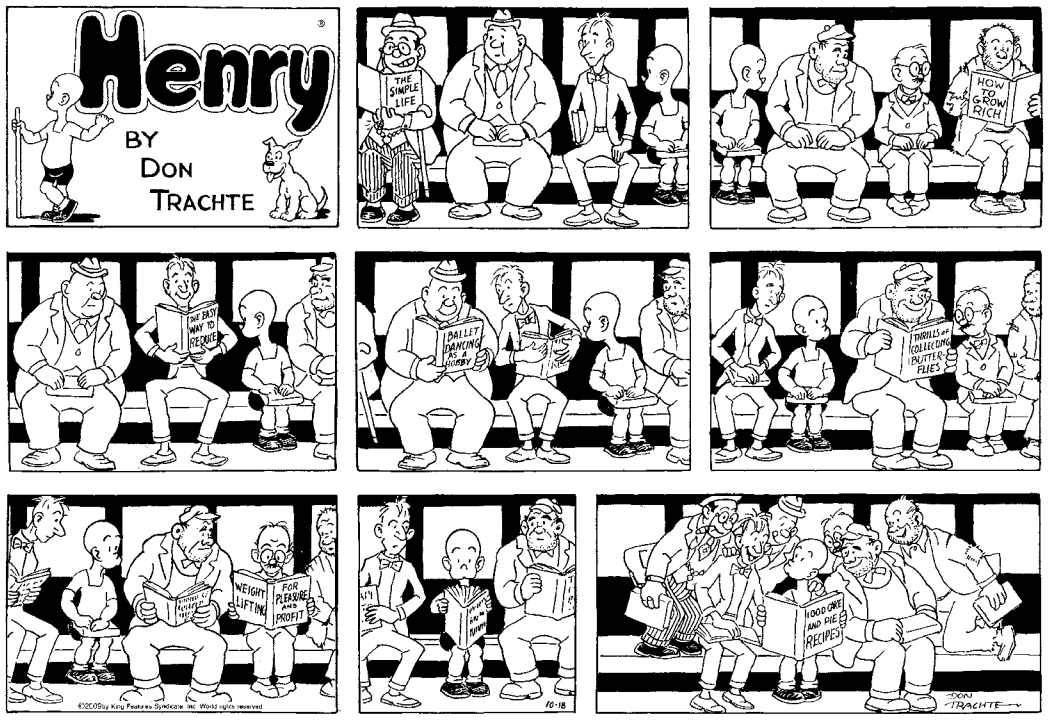
They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto


J'EVER NOTICE? A WHOLE LOT OF WORDS ON THE THE SIGN--BUT NOT SO MUCH ON THE PLATE....
TODAYS SPECIAL $3.25
ROAST BEEF
BAKED POTATO
COLESLAW
BREAD and BUTTER
COFFEE and DESSERT
W-WHAT?
Thanx to EDDIE at the DINER, PLAINVIEW, N.Y.
FAMOUS LAST WORDS--"I'LL JUST EAT ONE OR TWO PEANUTS..."
MY, MY!
CHOMP-P-CHOMP-C-CHOMP
11-6
Thanx to L. PULCHINSKY, LOS ANGELES, CA.
©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
HOSPITAL FUN and GAMES--A POX ON THE CLOWN WHO DOLES OUT THE HOSPITAL GOWNS--HE'S EITHER AN EX-ARMY SUPPLY SERGEANT OR A PRACTICAL JOKER OR--- HEH-HEH---BOTH---
X-RAY
?
?
LABORATORY
Thanx to H. CARBONE, RALEIGH, N.C.



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

COUNTER

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Looking for Used Car, Good running condition. We pay CASH! Please call 287-7676.

FOR SALE

For sale bar benches with tables 299.00. DVD Karaoke player 279.00. AC Unit 279-219.00. Call 287-8371

WHATZIT Solution:
Checkout counter

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Night-time security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR SALE 8

Brand new, professional size pool/ billiard table for sale, including setting-up. $1,900. Call 287-7676.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 09-02
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

CLERK OF COURT / PART-TIME MAGISTRATE JUDGE
Location: Garapan, Saipan MP **FULL-TIME, 4-Year Term**
Compensated at Judicial Salary Plan JSP-16
OPENING: October 20, 2009
CLOSING DATE: November 20, 2009 at 3:30pm
Position becomes available January 1, 2010.

Position Overview:
This position is located at the U.S. District Court, in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. This is a position with combined duties. As Clerk of Court, this position is responsible for managing court administrative functions, under direction of the Chief Judge. As Part-Time Magistrate Judge, duties may include: (1) providing coverage in the absence of the District Judge; (2) conducting preliminary proceedings in criminal cases; (3) conducting various pretrial matters and evidentiary proceedings on delegation from the District Judge; and (4) trying and disposing of civil cases upon consent of the litigants. Complete information may be picked up from the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court, or by electronic download from http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov

Minimum Qualifications:
Candidates must meet the qualifications for both Clerk of Court and Part-Time Magistrate Judge. Requires 5 years Bar Membership, 10 years progressively responsible administrative experience, including 5 years active law practice, and other qualifications. Complete list of qualifications may be picked up from the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court, or by electronic download from http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov

Citizenship Requirement:
Applicants are required to be United States citizens or otherwise eligible to work in the U.S.

Application Procedure:
Each applicant is required to submit Cover Letter plus an "Application for United States Magistrate Judge". Applicants will be reviewed by a Merit Selection Panel. Copies of the application form may be picked-up at the Clerk's Office of the U.S. District Court, or by electronic download from http://www.nmid.uscourts.gov All applications must be *received by* November 20, 2009 at 3:30pm. Submit cover letter, application original, plus 5 copies to:

Honorable Alex R. Munson, Chief Judge
United States District Court
for the Northern Mariana Islands
123 Kopa di Oru Street
P.O. Box 500687
Saipan, MP 96950

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M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

Angels answer Yankees' rally, extend ALCS

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Mere moments after the Los Angeles Angels unleashed their leaping, screeching, rambunctious Rally Monkey on the scoreboard, they erased a late deficit and saved their season. Surely that monkey business was just a coincidence. He's just a marketing gimmick, a video star and a plush toy—right?

Not to the fans who watched it happen Thursday night in the latest improbability of an AL championship series game. Not to the Yankees, who were three innings away from tickets to the World Series before the Angels snatched them away with a 7-6 comeback victory that cut New York's edge to 3-2.

"Anything is possible, man," Angels outfielder Torii Hunter said. "Baseball is a crazy game, man. You see some crazy things. Every time you come to the game, you've probably been to 1,000 games, and you see something different every year."

Kendry Morales drove in the go-ahead run with a two-out single in the seventh inning as the Angels responded to the Yankees' six-run comeback moments earlier with a three-run rally of their own, each hit more improbable than the last.

When closer Brian Fuentes retired Nick Swisher on a bases-loaded, full-count popup for the final, perilous out, the Angels and their monkey had held on—and evoked the faintest echoes of the Yankees' last trip to this stage of the postseason, which ended in their unprecedented four-game flameout in 2004.

"It's a missed opportunity, but we still have another game," Yankees manager Joe Girardi said. "We've bounced back from tough losses all year long. We've had it happen to us before and been able to get off the carpet."

Game 6 is Saturday night at Yankee Stadium, with Andy Pettitte facing Los Angeles' Joe Saunders. Also in the forecast: a huge rainstorm.

"It gives them a couple more days of hope, and hopefully that hope ends on Saturday because anything can happen, especially with as tough of conditions as we're going to be playing in," said Johnny Damon, who went 1 for 5. "They still have to beat us two times at our place, and hopefully that's going to be tough to do."

AP

Los Angeles Angels' Torii Hunter reacts after scoring on a single by Kendry Morales during the seventh inning of Game 5 of the American League Championship baseball series against the New York Yankees Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009, in Anaheim, Calif.(

When Robinson Cano jubilantly rolled into third base with a two-run triple to put New York up 6-4 in the seventh, everything in somber Angel Stadium pointed to a clinching victory, a record 40th AL pennant and a date with Philadelphia next week for the Yankees. Surely the season would be forever tainted by manager Mike Scioscia's decision with two outs in the seventh to pull John Lackey, the workhorse starter who dominated New York for six innings.

Instead, the Angels showed off the knack for late-game comebacks they've possessed ever since their run to their only championship in 2002, when the beloved Rally Monkey began appearing in the late innings. Los Angeles set the franchise record with 47 comeback wins this season, and both of their playoff wins over the Yankees were comebacks.

Vladimir Guerrero's single tied it in the seventh for the Angels, who didn't surrender after blowing a 4-0 lead in a must-win game.

"It was definitely a do-or-die situation," said Lackey, who dominated the Yankees for six innings before getting pulled with two outs in the seventh. "Now we've got one more game to go, and hopefully we'll make it to the next one. The guys showed a lot of character tonight, for sure. Having the rough seventh inning and then coming right back and scoring three runs showed a lot about our team."

Although two games in the Bronx—and shutdown starter CC Sabathia—still stand in the Angels' way, the collapse raised the slightest reminders of what happened to the Yankees' last big lead in an ALCS. The Red Sox famously rallied from an 0-3 deficit in 2004, making a late rally to win Game 4 before finishing off the biggest comeback in baseball history in seven games.

Only six teams have rallied from a 3-1 deficit to win a league championship series—most recently in 2007, when Boston came back against Sabathia and Cleveland on the way to a title. Including the World Series, 11 of 70 teams that fell into a 3-1 hole have made the comeback.

Four teams previously have won the final two LCS games on the road.

The Angels hadn't scored a run before the fourth inning of any playoff game this fall until they jumped on Yankees starter A.J. Burnett, who yielded eight hits and three walks.

Lackey, soon to be among the sport's most coveted free agents, cruised through the first six innings after Los Angeles scored four in the first, and the ace reacted with audible disappointment when Scioscia pulled him from what might be his final start with his only team.

Lackey left to a standing ovation with a tip of his cap—and the Yankees probably were cheering, too.

Reliever Darren Oliver yielded a three-run double to Mark Teixeira - 3 for 21 in the ALCS at that point—on his first pitch, and Hideki Matsui added a tying single.

Incredibly, it wasn't over—and Burnett shared the blame with his bullpen. Altogether, the seventh inning featured nine runs and 63 pitches over nearly 45 minutes.

Jeff Mathis and Erick Aybar reached base to chase Burnett, the big-money free agent who's still winless in three postseason starts. After Mathis scored on Bobby Abreu's RBI groundout, Guerrero's dribbling single against reliever Phil Hughes eluded a diving Derek Jeter to tie it - and Morales put the Angels ahead with the latest clutch hit of his breakout season.

"That's not a forgiving team over there," Scioscia said. "They hit pretty quick in that inning with six runs, and we bounced back and answered with three. In the dugout between innings, guys were still pumped up. Just some real good hitting."

Jered Weaver, who started Game 3 for the Angels, pitched a hitless eighth before Fuentes barely escaped the ninth. After two quick outs, he intentionally walked Alex Rodriguez with nobody on base before walking Matsui and hitting Cano with a pitch to load the bases for the slumping Swisher, who battled Fuentes for seven pitches before popping out.

"My hair is falling out," said the shaved-headed Hunter, who had a two-run single in the first. "We're having a little fun, man. Everybody thought we were down."

Aussie O'Hern leads Frys.com Open

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP)—Brandishing a hot putter on a warm afternoon, Australian Nick O'Hern cruised to a career-low 63 and the first-round lead in the Frys.com Open on Thursday.

O'Hern, who finished at 7 under, putted only nine times while posting a 28 on the par-35 back nine at Grayhawk Golf Club. Eight of O'Hern's nine birdies came in that stretch.

"Pretty scary," O'Hern said. "I've never done that before. I was pretty happy."

Bob Heintz and Heath Slocum were a stroke back at 64, and D.A. Points, Rory Sabbatini, Greg Owen and Rickie Fowler shot 65s.

Fred Couples, who captained the United States to victory in the Presidents Cup earlier this month, shot a 67 in his first tour round in seven weeks.

With little wind on an 82-degree day in the desert, scores fell as players attacked Grayhawk's Raptor Course.

Scores may keep dropping for the rest of the week. Temperatures are expected to reach the high 80s in each of the final three rounds.

"It's like playing indoors," said Paul Goydos, who shot a 66 to finish in a 15-way tie for eighth place. "The weather is too good. I would expect you're going to see a pretty bunched leaderboard all week."

Indeed, O'Hern had to shoot the round of his life to eke out a one-stroke lead.

O'Hern may best be known as the first player to beat Tiger Woods twice in match play as a professional. The short-hitting lefty from Australian beat the world's No. 1 in the Accenture Match Play Championship in 2005 and in 2007, and fans haven't forgotten.

"A lot of people don't know my name," O'Hern said. "Hey, that's the guy that beat Tiger twice."

O'Hern probably could have taken Woods down again on Thursday—at least on the back nine.

O'Hern hit the turn at even par, then caught fire. He birdied six straight holes before bogeying the par-3 16th when his tee shot rolled off the bank of the green and into the water.

"It wasn't actually a bad shot, but the result was bad," O'Hern said.

He recovered to birdie the final two holes.

His longest putts were a 48-footer on the par-4 12th and a 20-footer on the par-4 17th.

O'Hern has never won a PGA Tour event, and he missed the cut in nine of his first 25 tournaments this year. O'Hern struggled to bounce back from offseason surgery on his left thumb and his right knee.

"That kind of held my progress back at the start of the year," O'Hern said. "I had a bit of a late start."

Heintz, also winless on the tour, missed the cut in eight of his first 18 starts this year.

Heintz professed not to know that he was 171st on the money list—and it's not because he struggles with numbers. Heintz graduated from Yale with a degree in economics in 1992.

"If I was over $1 million, I would look at it every day and smile," Heintz said. "But you know, when you're where I am, I don't think it really helps you to."

The Frys.com Open has a $5 million purse, with the winner taking home $900,000.

Couples said he decided to play in the tournament partly because his girlfriend, Julie, lives in the area, and also because it wasn't far from his home in Palm Springs.

"My whole thought process was just, I live four hours from here in Palm Springs, I might as well drive over here and play," Couples said.

Thursday's round was Couples' first tour appearance since he missed the cut in the Deutsche Bank Championship in September.

Couples wasn't sure how he'd shoot after the long layoff, but he birdied five holes in a six-hole stretch to play his way into contention.

"I'm absolutely thrilled with my round today," Couples said. "I have a shot at playing better than I thought going into Friday."

Thomas says he's 'hurt' over Magic's book comments

MIAMI (AP)—Hall of Fame players Isiah Thomas and Magic Johnson famously kissed moments before tip-off of Game 1 of the 1988 NBA finals.

Today, the relationship clearly isn't anywhere near as close.

Thomas told SI.com earlier this week that he is "really hurt" over criticisms levied by Johnson in a new book chronicling the careers of Johnson and Larry Bird. According to Thursday's SI.com report, Johnson said Thomas questioned his sexuality after the Los Angeles Lakers star retired in 1991 after being diagnosed with HIV.

Johnson also tells the Web site that he helped play a role in keeping Thomas off the 1992 U.S. Olympic team.

"Isiah killed his own chances when it came to the Olympics," Johnson said, according to SI.com. "Nobody on that team wanted to play with him. ... Michael didn't want to play with him. Scottie (Pippen) wanted no part of him. Bird wasn't pushing for him. Karl Malone didn't want him. Who was saying, 'We need this guy?' Nobody.'"

Thomas, now coaching at FIU in Miami, said he declined a chance to be interviewed for the book. According to its index, he appears on at least 26 pages of the book, which Johnson and Bird wrote with author Jackie MacMullan.

"I'm really hurt, and I really feel taken advantage of for all these years," Thomas told SI.com. "I'm totally blindsided by this. Every time that I've seen Magic, he has been friendly with me."

FIU had no immediate comment. Thomas' spokesman said the remarks were accurate. Thomas was scheduled to be available to reporters later Thursday night at an alumni event.

The book comments by Johnson are the latest salvo in a strained relationship, once made famous by the pre-Finals kiss and a pair of crowd-pleasing 1-on-1 battles in the final moments of the 1992 NBA All-Star game.

Last fall, Johnson said he would not recommend Thomas for any other NBA jobs, after Thomas' stints with both the Indiana Pacers and New York Knicks were rocky at times—particularly so in New York.

"I wish he would have had the courage to say this stuff to me face to face, as opposed to writing it in some damn book to sell and he can make money off it," Thomas said.

Thomas also told SI.com that he did not question Johnson's sexuality, adding that Johnson "acted and responded off some really bad information that he got."

AP

Florida International head coach Isiah Thomas answers questions before a promotional event for the Florida International college basketball team Thursday, Oct. 22, 2009 in Miami.

New coach Paul Westphal hoping to rebuild Kings

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Old age, injuries and a series of bad personnel moves sent the Sacramento Kings spiraling from the team with the NBA's best record to the one with the worst during a seven-year slide.

The days of raucous crowds at packed Arco Arena, a wide-open offense that delighted fans everywhere and a perennial championship contender are things of the past in Sacramento.

In their place is a young team with little star power trying to turn it around under Paul Westphal, the team's fifth coach in five seasons. Westphal has spent enough time in the NBA as a coach and player to know how difficult the process is.

"With our young team, I think the challenge is to remain patient and positive through the inevitable rough spots," Westphal said. "Not so much for the coaching staff, but for the players. They want instant success. We want instant success too, but we realize it might take longer than some of their timetables and be a little harder than they think it will be."

The only franchise in the past 35 seasons to go from best to worst faster than the Kings did was the post-Michael Jordan Chicago Bulls, who fell off in three years. But the Bulls won six titles during their heyday with Jordan, while the Kings never made it as far as the NBA finals.

They came close in 2002 when they posted the league's best record (61-21) in the regular season and lost to the Los Angeles Lakers in overtime in Game 7 of the Western Conference finals. That was part of a run of eight straight playoff appearances. But Sacramento has gone three straight years without making it to the postseason, capped by last season's disaster.

The Kings went 17-65 in the worst season ever for the franchise. Reggie Theus was fired after a 6-18 start to his second season as coach and things didn't get any better after Kenny Natt took over on an interim basis. That led to Westphal's hiring.

"It feels good to have everything behind you, know what last year felt like, and work to not have something like that happen again," star Kevin Martin said. "We have a very knowledgeable head coach who can teach players like myself how to make the game a lot more easier. This is a new era, new beginning, and the players are excited."

Martin is one of three players to have made it to the postseason with the Kings, with none of them having ever won a series. About the only tie left to the glory days in Sacramento is president of basketball operations Geoff Petrie, who is in the final year of his contract.

After being hailed for bringing Chris Webber, Vlade Divac, Mike Bibby and Peja Stojakovic to Sacramento, Petrie has not had the same type of success in recent seasons.

He hasn't drafted an All-Star since Stojakovic in 1996, and has not had the same success in trades that he had when he acquired Webber and Bibby in lopsided deals, or made any impact through free agency.

While Sacramento got no luck in the lottery and ended up with the fourth pick in the draft, the Kings are excited about rookie point guard Tyreke Evans, who has impressed during the preseason.

"He doesn't even seem like a rookie," Westphal said. "He just has a feel for the game that inspires confidence. He's going to be a really fine player."

Evans and fellow first-rounder Omri Casspi are among the young players the Kings are counting on to spur their turnaround, along with Martin, last year's first-round pick Jason Thompson and 2007 first-rounder Spencer Hawes. Sacramento has only two players on its current roster who have played more than five seasons in the NBA.

"It's tough when you don't have the veterans like Orlando or the Lakers," Thompson said. "I look at it as two or three years ago those teams were in our same situation. You have to go through ups and downs. You have to start somewhere. We're at that level and we have a lot of potential."

The struggles on the court in recent years and the fight for a new arena has alienated many fans in Sacramento. The Kings had a streak of 354 consecutive home sellouts end in their home opener in 2007 and Arco Arena was several thousand fans short of capacity for most games last season.

"I think whenever a city has been as basketball crazy as Sacramento has been, there's a hunger to return to that kind of feel," Westphal said. "I see us in a very similar situation to where the Blazers were a couple of years ago. There was a lot of negativity, the crowds weren't coming but the people still cared. They were just looking for something to hang on to so they could get that enthusiasm back. That's what it's like here."

NBA BRIEFS

Blazers sign Aldridge to extension

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—The Portland Trail Blazers signed forward LaMarcus Aldridge to a five-year contract extension on Thursday. The terms of the deal have not been announced. The team was in Vancouver, British Columbia, for an exhibition game against the Phoenix Suns. The Blazers scheduled a news conference in Portland on Friday. Aldridge, the second overall pick in the 2006 draft out of Texas, was acquired by the Blazers in a draft-day trade from the Chicago Bulls. Last season, he averaged 18.1 points and 7.5 rebounds. "I'm really happy we got this done and now I'm really excited to get the season started," he said in a statement. For his career, Aldridge has averaged 15.4 points and 6.8 rebounds. He has started in 157 games. The 6-foot-11 Dallas native was key to a young Blazers team that won 54 games last season and went to the playoffs for the first time since 2003. Portland fell in six games to the Houston Rockets in the first round. Aldridge started all six playoff games, averaging 19.5 points and 7.5 rebounds.

Stern hopeful on sale of Nets, return of referees

NEW YORK (AP)—David Stern believes he could have a new owner before the year ends and his old referees before the season starts. "I'm hopeful with respect to both and optimistic with respect to both," Stern said Thursday. The commissioner said that Mikhail Prokhorov, who has a deal to buy 80 percent of the New Jersey Nets, had a positive introduction with NBA owners during their two-day Board of Governors meetings. Prokhorov's application is currently under review and the sale must be approved by three-fourths of the league's owners. The league is currently performing background checks of Russia's richest man, and Stern stressed that the process is still early. "The review process is incomplete and the documents are not finalized," Stern said. "That said, we haven't surfaced anything that has caused us to have a negative opinion of him. We're not finished." But Stern said, "We're looking forward to the completion of that transaction." The commissioner also said owners voted to give the league office emergency powers to determine what happens if teams can't field the minimum eight players because of illness. Prokhorov's proposed deal with Nets owner Bruce Ratner to become the NBA's first non-North American owner would also give him nearly half of a project to build a new arena in Brooklyn. The agreement was made a month ago, and this was Prokhorov's first chance since to meet his potential future fellow owners.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

FRYS.COM OPEN SCORES

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (AP)–Scores Thursday from the Frys.com Open, a $5 million US PGA Tour event at 7,125-yard, par-70 Grayhawk Golf Club:

FIRST ROUND

Nick O'Hern	35-28–63
Bob Heintz	32-32–64
Heath Slocum	31-33–64
D.A. Points	32-33–65
Rory Sabbatini	33-32–65
Greg Owen	32-33–65
Rickie Fowler	31-34–65
Jeff Klauk	34-32–66
Stephen Ames	32-34–66
Paul Goydos	32-34–66
Pat Perez	33-33–66
Bill Lunde	33-33–66
Ricky Barnes	34-32–66
Spencer Levin	34-32–66
Tim Petrovic	33-33–66
Brad Adamonis	33-33–66
Justin Leonard	33-33–66
Mike Weir	32-34–66
Ryan Moore	34-32–66
Billy Mayfair	33-33–66
Nicholas Thompson	32-34–66
Ben Crane	34-32–66
Rocco Mediate	33-34–67
Bryce Molder	32-35–67
Tom Pernice, Jr.	33-34–67
Fred Couples	36-31–67
Martin Laird	34-33–67
Steve Lowery	34-33–67
Alex Cejka	35-32–67
Matt Jones	33-34–67
Scott McCarron	33-34–67
Michael Allen	34-33–67
Chris Stroud	34-33–67
Bo Van Pelt	34-33–67
Charley Hoffman	31-36–67
Marc Turnesa	33-34–67
Webb Simpson	34-34–68
Tim Clark	33-35–68
Richard S. Johnson	33-35–68
Mark Wilson	34-34–68
Chad Campbell	36-32–68
Arron Oberholser	35-33–68
Tom Lehman	35-33–68
Tim Herron	36-32–68
Harrison Frazar	35-33–68
Brian Vranesh	35-33–68
Brett Quigley	35-33–68
Mathew Goggin	35-33–68
Andres Romero	35-33–68
Chris DiMarco	35-33–68
Johnson Wagner	35-33–68
Steve Elkington	34-34–68
David Mathis	34-34–68
Peter Tomasulo	36-32–68
Matt Bettencourt	34-35–69
D.J. Trahan	37-32–69
Nathan Green	36-33–69
Brad Faxon	35-34–69
Ryan Palmer	34-35–69
Vaughn Taylor	34-35–69
Peter Lonard	35-34–69
Darron Stiles	35-34–69
George McNeill	34-35–69
Steve Flesch	34-35–69
J.J. Henry	35-34–69
Briny Baird	37-32–69
Charlie Wi	34-35–69
Jamie Lovemark	35-34–69
Robert Garrigus	33-37–70
Glen Day	35-35–70
Brian Davis	33-37–70
Will MacKenzie	36-34–70
Kirk Triplett	35-35–70
Parker McLachlin	36-34–70
Cliff Kresge	32-38–70
Jason Gore	32-38–70
Aron Price	36-34–70
David Duval	35-35–70
Eric Axley	35-35–70
Dean Wilson	36-34–70
Fredrik Jacobson	35-35–70
Greg Chalmers	36-34–70
John Mallinger	35-35–70
Cameron Beckman	35-35–70
Jonathan Byrd	36-34–70
Stuart Appleby	36-34–70
Carl Pettersson	36-34–70
Chez Reavie	36-34–70
Michael Bradley	36-34–70
Kevin Streelman	41-29–70
Chris Riley	33-37–70
Roland Thatcher	35-35–70
Jay Williamson	36-35–71
Kent Jones	35-36–71
Rich Beem	38-33–71
Ryuji Imada	36-35–71
Todd Hamilton	34-37–71
Colt Knost	34-37–71
Mark Calcavecchia	35-36–71
Kevin Sutherland	36-35–71
Michael Letzig	39-32–71
Casey Wittenberg	35-36–71
Jarrod Lyle	36-35–71
Leif Olson	37-34–71
Eric Meierdierks	38-33–71
Jeff Overton	35-37–72
John Merrick	34-38–72
Daniel Chopra	36-36–72
Joe Ogilvie	36-36–72
Brian Bateman	37-35–72
Troy Matteson	37-35–72
Derek Fathauer	38-34–72
Brady Schnell	37-35–72
Jake Younan-Wise	38-34–72
Jeff Quinney	34-38–72
Ted Purdy	38-34–72
James Nitties	35-37–72
Brendon de Jonge	38-34–72
Stan Utley	37-35–72
John Rollins	37-36–73
Brendon Todd	39-34–73
Kris Blanks	37-36–73
Bubba Watson	39-35–74
Ken Duke	39-35–74
Tommy Armour III	39-35–74
Aaron Watkins	37-37–74
Aaron Baddeley	37-38–75
Jimmy Walker	41-34–75
Dean Vomacka	40-35–75
Matt Weibring	36-40–76
Jeff Maggert	39-37–76
Patrick Moore	38-40–78

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SEDA STANDINGS

Masters Division

D' Pirate's M- Destroyers	81	55
Oleai Snipers	79	57
Jonny's Black Stallions	76	43
VFW Angry Dragons	66	70
Bud's Brothers M	46	73
Oleai D' Companeros	43	93

A Division

Jonny's Black Stallions Jr.	78	58
Naked Fish Boyz	76	60
D' Pirates 101 Proofers	72	64
Jonny's Load Up	72	64
Bud's FUJIN	71	65
Bud's Brothers A	64	72
Bud's Enforcer	60	59
Bud's No Name	34	85

Tuesday B

D' Pirates CK-Destroyers	79	41
VFW Naughty Boyz	68	52
D' Pirates B Destroyers	64	56
Jonny's Samurai	50	70
Bud's Bar Pure Budz	50	70
Bud's Bring it on 1	49	71

Thursday B

Buds Brothers B	91	44
Buds Bring it on 11	80	55
Remington Naughty Boyz	76	59
Naked Man F.O.T.T.E	75	60
USSP No Fear	72	63
Bud's B-Bwiibwis	72	63
VFW Dutty Gunz	62	73
The Flair Salut Balut	61	74
Snicker N' Tuna Lights Out	43	92
The Flair Get Sum	43	92

C Kingfisher

Jonny's Wasabe	91	29
Bar Gaia Gaiana	77	43
USSP Young Gunz	73	47
VFW One Shot	63	57
Jonny's ADH	56	64
BYE	0	120

C Chichirika

Bud's Bwiibwis C	78	42
Bud's C - Bwiibwis	66	54
Snicker's Lucky Shot	65	55
Bud's Darty Deeds	62	58
D' Pirates Sang	56	64
USSP Bomsoro	33	87

Ladies

VFW Yakau	53	37
Jonny's.Com	52	53
Tijuana B-52 Shooter's	50	40
Snicker's Mama Sniper's	37	38
Bud's Bwiibwis Mermaid	33	57

Bud's Brothers B widens lead in darts league

Bud's Brothers B strengthened its hold to the No. 1 spot in the Thursday B division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League.

The Willy Apresto-led Bud's Brothers B has a 91-44 record for an 11-win lead over Bud's Bring it on 11 (80-55). Other members of the team are Edgar Abalos, Jojo Guilas, Noel Unay, Rex Vea, and Joel Linaogo.

Eight other teams are entered in the Thursday B division, namely Remington Naughty Boyz (76-59), Naked Man F.O.T.T.E (75-60), USSP No Fear (72-63), Bud's B-Bwiibwis (72-63), VFW Dutty Gunz (62-73), The Flair Salut Balut (61-74), Snicker N' Tuna Lights Out (43-92), and The Flair Get Sum (43-92).

Only six teams are battling for the Masters division crown with D' Pirate's M- Destroyers having the advantage with their 81-55 slate. Keeping pace with D' Pirate's M- Destroyers in second place are the Oleai Snipers, who hold a 79-57 slate.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of Bud's Brothers B pose for a group photo before their game in the Thursday B division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League last week.

Others playing in the Masters division and their standings in parentheses are Jonny's Black Stallions (76-43), VFW Angry Dragons (66-70), Bud's Brothers M (46-73), and Oleai D' Companeros (43-93).

The A division has the second most entries with eight and the battle for the Top 5 places are tight. Jonny's Black Stallions Jr. are in first place with a 78-58 record, followed by Naked Fish Boyz (76-60), D' Pirates 101 Proofers (72-64), Jonny's Load Up (72-64), Bud's FUJIN (71-65), Bud's Brothers A (64-72), Bud's Enforcer (60-59), and Bud's No Name (34-85).

D' Pirates CK-Destroyers have more breathing space in Tuesday B division with their 79-41 record, as second-running VFW Naughty Boyz only has a 68-52 late. In third place are D' Pirates B Destroyers (64-56), followed Jonny's Samurai (50-70), Bud's Bar Pure Budz (50-70), and Bud's Bring it on (49-71).

Also enjoying a double-digit lead in the C Kingfisher division is Jonny's Wasabe, which holds a 91-29 slate for a 14-win lead over Bar Gaia Gaiana (77-43). USSP Young Gunz is in the Top 3 with its 73-47 slate, VFW One Shot (63-57) occupies the No. 4 spot, while Jonny's ADH and BYE are in the last two places with their 56-64 and 0-120 records, respectively.

Bud's teams, Bud's Bwiibwis C and Bud's C-Bwiibwis, are in the Top 2 spots in the C Chichirika with their 78-42 and 66-54 slates, respectively. Snicker's Lucky Shot is in third place (65-55), followed by Bud's Darty Deeds (62-58), D' Pirates Sang (56-64), and USSP Bomsoro (33-87).

The Ladies division is a neck-and-neck battle between VFW Yakau (53-37) and Jonny's.Com (52-53). Other teams in the ladies division are Tijuana B-52 Shooter's (50-40), Snicker's Mama Sniper's (37-38), and Bud's Bwiibwis Mermaid (33-57). ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

JOSHUA

From Page 28

low cuts on her right ribs. A few years ago in another triathlon tournament, she ran with broken shoes.

Carey admitted that crashes and flat tires are part and parcel of the race, but she is hoping that the breaks will go her way on Sunday as this is the first time she is entered in the pro division and is racing against eight of the Top 10 triathletes in the world.

"It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to race against these world-class triathletes, so I hope I will not crash so I can keep up with them," Carey said.

Manglona is not keen on keeping pace with the top bets in the weekend race, as he wants to enjoy the ride, finish the race, and meet and greet fellow triathletes from all over the world.

"I will meet and mix with these fun-loving and hard-working athletes, both pro and amateur. It will be a great experience to meet tough XTERRA World triathletes who embrace adventure more than any athlete of other sports," said Manglona, who thanked IT&E for providing him with a phone that allows him to send updates about the pre-race to his family and friends on Tinian.

"Maui is a beautiful island. I've never been here before. What makes me feel really blessed to be here is that I get to compete in the final tour of XTERRA events," Manglona added.

Besides Manglona and Carey, also participating in XTERRA is the latter's husband, Kevin. The three CNMI triathletes left Saipan Thursday afternoon and arrived in Maui Thursday afternoon (Maui time).

The race will begin at 9am Sunday (Maui time) with athletes from more than 20 countries and 40 states negotiating the 1.5-kilometer swim course, 32-km mountain bike race, and the 12-km trail run.

Triathletes in the pro division will vie for the total cash prize of $105,000, while amateurs will fight for bragging rights as XTERRA World champions.

SAIPAN

From Page 28

Saipan defending champions Renata Bucher and Sam Gardiner have confirmed their participation in the 1.5-kilometer swim, 30-km bike, and 12-km run race.

According to the Taga, Inc. president they will be joined by past participants from Australia, Spain, Canada, Austria, United States, Great Britain, Japan, Guam, Korea, and other parts of Asia.

It is Taga, Inc.'s hope that a number of the XTERRA athletes will stay and take part in the 2-km swim, 60-kim bike, and 15-km run Tagaman a week later.

"We have been passing out flyers at events in Japan and Bill Sakovich will be in Maui this weekend to promote the event there. Many of last year's participants promised to come back and bring more athletes with them," said Mojica.

It is Mojica's wish that the local community will show the same enthusiasm in once again hosting the Saipan Sportfest next year as they did the previous stagings of the event.

"We at Taga, Inc. are very happy that the Saipan Sportsfest will return in 2010. We would also like to call upon all those organizations, land owners, and government agencies who have helped in the past to open their hearts and property to the event which is such a great way to focus positive attention on the island of Saipan, showcasing it's beauty and the warm hospitality of the people. This is something that we really need in the coming years, to shine a positive light on our island," he said.

Mojica added that he doesn't expect federalization of CNMI immigration, set to be implemented on Nov. 28, will have any drastic effect in the participation for the 2010 Saipan Sportsfest.

"Most of the athletes who participated last year also participate in the XTERRA series in the U.S. and probably have multiple entry visas for the U.S. which would allow them into the CNMI. Those who do not can apply just like anyone else," he said.

FOUR

From Page 28

Zamu caught the last trip to the championship after beating Banzai in the finals last Saturday.

The four teams who qualified in the championship round will play in a double-round elimination tournament today. Advance X-Terminators and Kulan Zamu are headed for an early rematch as they duel in the first game at 10am. In the second match at 11:15am, SaiPal will collide against Natibu. The championship game is set for 4:15pm.

Winner of the Saipan leg will compete in the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament and battle champion teams from Guam, Palau, and Pohnpei. Saipan will host the KOD finale from Nov. 12 to 14. The host is aiming to regain the KOD title it lost last year. Saipan ruled the first three staging of KOD before Da Boyz of Guam snapped that streak, following a 10-0 win over Belau Meyuns at the Meyuns Field in Palau last year.

For more information about KOD, contact Joey Dela Cruz at 483-4185.

SWEEP

From Page 28

standings with its 1-1-1 win-draw-loss record. MP United-White forced a 1-1 draw against Independent FC on Oct. 10 and lost to Paire FC on Sept. 26.

Only two games were played last Saturday, as Matansa FC and Independent FC's tiff at Pitch 2 was rescheduled.

Matansa FC is in fourth place with its 1-0-1 slate, followed by Independent FC (0-1-1), Tan Holdings FC-2 (0-0-1), and Tan Holdings FC-1 (0-0-3).

In the girls U13 division, Matansa clobbered Independent FC, 3-0 in Week 3 and also shutout Paire FC in Week 2, 3-0, to record its third win in as many games.

Paire recovered from its loss to Matansa via a 3-1 triumph over MP United last Saturday.

MP United came off a 3-0 win over Independent FC in Week 2 before bowing to Paire in Week 3.

All four teams in the girls U13 had played three games with Paire posting a 2-0-1 slate to take second place. MP United is in third place with its 1-0-2 mark, while Independent FC occupies the bottom of the team standings with its 0-0-3 record.

23 teams in U12 league

With games in the youth league being played during weekends, Northern Mariana Islands Football Association has scheduled matches in the NMIFA U12 Interscholastic Football League every Tuesday and Thursday.

The league kicked off on Tuesday with 12 teams in the boys division and 11 in the girls category vying for the championship this year.

The U12 league drew participants from both the public and private schools on Saipan. The list include San Antonio Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Dandan Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, Garapan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Eucon International School, Saipan International School, and Saipan Community Schools.

Games are played in six school fields namely, GTC, Garapan, Sa Vicente, Koblerville, San Antonio, and Tanapag.

10 squads in futsal

Adult players are also having their share of football games this fall through the 2009 NMIFA Women's Futsal Fall League.

Games in the indoor football league are played every Saturday at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium from 8am to 12pm.

The league has five regular teams and five recreational squads. Teams are coming from four clubs, Matansa, Paire, MP United, and Independents.

Bud's Brothers B widens lead in darts league

Bud's Brothers B strengthened its hold to the No. 1 spot in the Thursday B division of the 2009 Bud Light/Saipan Electronic Dart Association League. **27**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Angels answer Yankees' rally, extend ALCS

Mere moments after the Los Angeles Angels unleashed their leaping, screeching, rambunctious Rally Monkey on the scoreboard, they erased a late deficit and saved their season. **25**

Joshua, Mieko praying for trouble-free race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI triathletes Joshua Manglona and Mieko Carey arrived in Makena, Maui, Hawaii in one piece and are hoping for a safe ride too in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"If anyone out there has extra room for a prayer, please remember me, pray that I stay strong, and that I don't get a flat tire," Manglona said in an e-mail to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Manglona and Carey will be competing in the XTERRA World on Sunday (Monday on Saipan) with the former debuting in the world's premier off-road triathlon and the latter making her fourth trip to Maui.

"I am hoping that there will be no crashes and that I will make it to the finish line with a smile," Carey said.

In her first three strips to XTERRA World as an amateur, Carey, who won XTERRA Japan, had no major crash and sustained only bruises and scratches from trekking the forest trail bike and run courses. However, in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship early this year, Carey had a bike crash on Mt. Tapochao and fell against sharp rocks, causing long scratches, but shal-

See JOSHUA on Page 27

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tinian's Joshua Manglona, right, poses with pro triathlete Renata Bucher in Maleka, Maui, Hawaii on Thursday, three days before they compete in the 2009 XTERRA World Championship.

Saipan Sportsfest a go for 2010

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Global Tour and the region's longest running triathlon will return for another stint as the 2010 Saipan Sportsfest has been tabled for March 11-20.

Taga, Inc. president Wolf Mojica said the 10-day multi-sport extravaganza gets rolling with the two-day XTERRA University on March 11 and 12.

He said 2010 will mark the first time XTERRA University will be conducted in two languages—Japanese and English.

"XTERRA University will be conducted by a Japanese pro and North American pro. These are hands-on clinics on how to actually perform better in the race and will be open to anyone who is willing to pay the registration fee," said Mojica.

The 2010 XTERRA Saipan Championship is set on March 13 and following a series of clinics and social and athletics events, the 21st Tagaman Triathlon will be held on March 20.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Mike Vine negotiates the uphill bike climb course during the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship held in April.

Mojica said, this early, XTERRA

See SAIPAN on Page 27

Four teams vie for KOD slot

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ticket to the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament will be at stake when the championship round of the Saipan leg of the KOD qualifier kicks off today at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Four teams will square off for the lone KOD berth, led by back-to-back Saipan leg qualifying tournament winner Advance X-Terminators. Completing the cast are Natibu, SaiPal and Kulan Zamu.

X-Terminators took the first slot to the Saipan leg finals after edging Kulan Zamu in the first qualifying tournament. Lefty Manny Sablan singled and drove-in Jerry Ayuyu for the game-winning run at the bottom of the last inning to give Advance a 1-0 win in the finals.

In the second qualifying tournament, X-Terminators won anew, topping Natibu in the finals, 18-3. However, since X-Terminations had already qualified, runner-up Natibu got the free ride to the Saipan leg championship.

The third qualifying slot went to SaiPal, which dominated the third round last month.

In the fourth and final qualifying tournament, all teams who missed the first three berths battled in the wild-card phase for the last Saipan championship spot. Kulan

See FOUR on Page 27

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kulan Zamu's Jun Saralu swings during one of the qualifying events for the Saipan leg of the 2009 Budweiser King and Queen of the Diamonds Softball Tournament at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United-Blue and Matansa players battle for the loose ball during their Oct. 10 game in the NMIFA youth fall league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

Sweep for MP United, Matansa still perfect

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

MP United-Blue and Matansa Football Club kept the lead in the boys and girls U13 division of the NMIFA Youth Football Fall League, following Week 3 games last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United-Blue downed Tan Holdings FC 1, 3-1, in the first game over at Hopwood's Pitch 1, making a fitting follow-up on its shutout victory over Matansa, 5-0, on Oct. 10.

Back-to-back wins improved MP United Blue's record to 3-0-0 (win-draw-loss) and gave the team a one-win lead over Paire FC.

Paire drew a bye last Saturday and won over Tan Holdings FC-1 on Oct. 10, 7-0, to gain a 2-0 record in the team standings in the seven-squad field.

MP United-White played in Week 3 and blanked Tan Holdings FC-2, 5-0, to occupy the No. 3 spot in the team

See SWEEP on Page 27